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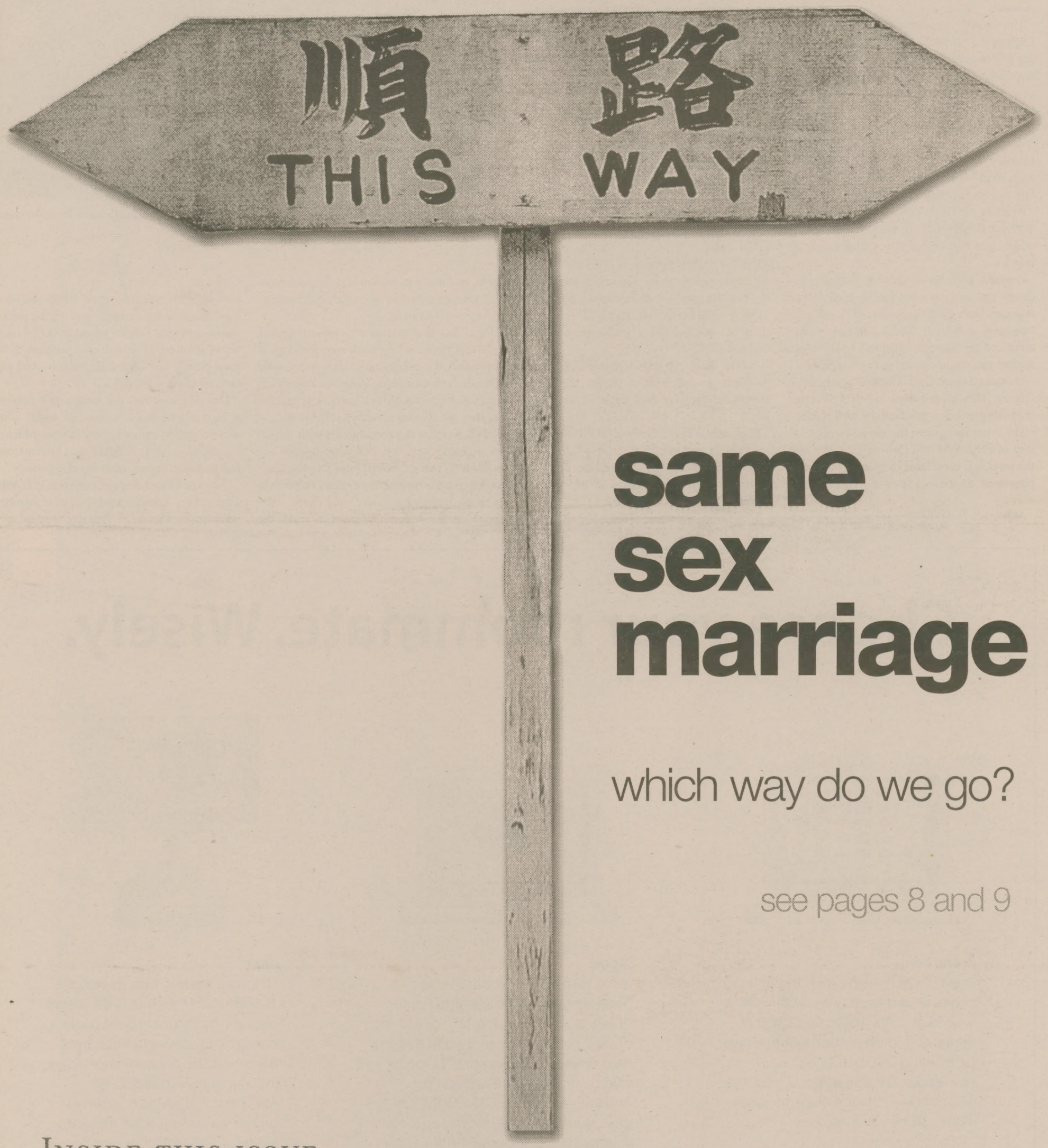

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Not all engineers are pale shut-ins

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Forget the stereotypes: UVic engineering students are not self-absorbed social deviants. Students in the faculty of engineering are at work on a variety of fascinating projects ranging from race cars and robots to volunteer work overseas.

Jena Croft, Communications Director for the Engineering Students' Society (ESS), said that the ESS is very active around UVic. They are responsible for two major fundraisers each year–the 24 hour Bug Push, happening this weekend, and the Order of Pi, which takes place each spring and raises money for the Queen Alexandra Centre For Children's Health. "We try to do something for charity each term," said Jena Croft, Communications Director for the Engineering Students' Society.

Formula UVic, AUVic, and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) are just a few of the other clubs that engineering students dedicate time to.

Formula UVic is a team of students that design and develop open-wheel, open-cockpit race cars. Since 1981 the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has held an annual international competition called Formula SAE that pits student teams and cars against one another.

This past August, the UVic team competed in Detroit. They placed 86th out of 140 teams, improving on last year's finish by nine places.

The event has gained the big-name sponsorship of Ford, GM and Daimler-Chrysler over the years. It is considered by many to be a stepping-stone to the world of automotive engineering.

AUVic is a group of engineering and computer science students who are building an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), an underwater robot that is able to complete intelligent tasks without aid from humans.

Each year there is an American competition hosted by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). AUVic has competed in two competitions so far. In their inaugural competition, the UVic team won the title of top rookie team.

Judging is based on two categories: technical merit and an obstacle course that requires the AUV to complete a task without any human intervention. To do this, the AUV must be able to move reliably on its own.

The task to be completed changes every year, and the teams find out what it is approximately four months before the competition.

According to Donovan Parks, this year's AUVic team captain, the event is very tough. "No one has been able to complete the task yet," he said.

But the underlying goal of AUVic is to gain hands-on experience in engineering while having fun. "It's great for understanding how engineering really works," said Parks. "There are no right or wrong answers, you're just trying to find solutions."

AUVic allows students to complement their academic studies with a project that more closely reflects what they might do at a "real" job.

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) also gives students an opportunity to bring what they've learned in the classroom to real-life situations by applying their knowledge to international relations.

Tom Owen, president of the UVic chapter of EWB, said the organization aims to give people in developing countries appropriate technology to improve their lives.

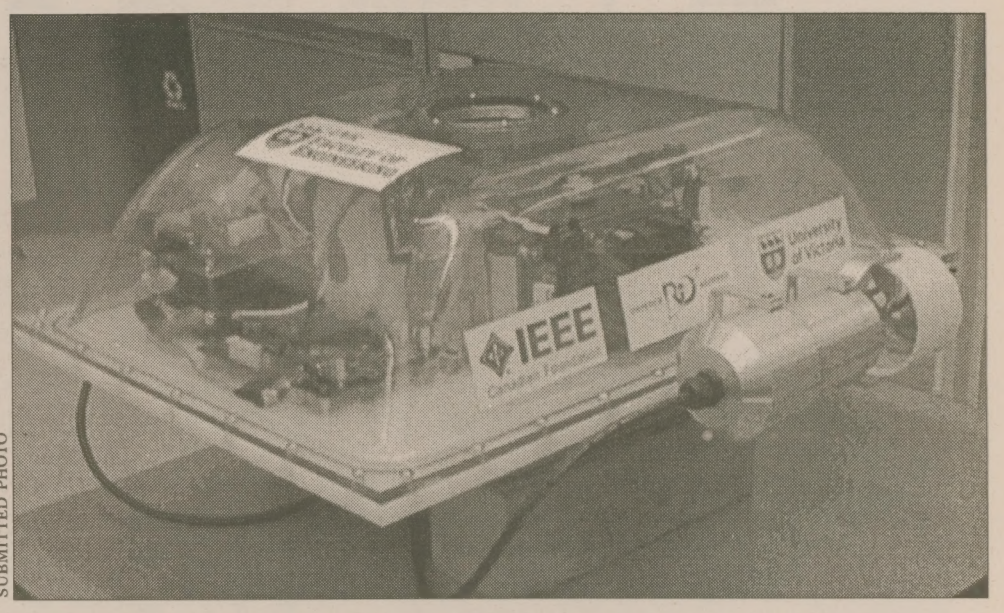
To do this, they partner with other organizations that have a strong track record and good ties within the communities they work with. "One of the fundamental things we look for [in a partner organization] is a good working relationship with the community," said Owen.

EWB provides the communities with technical expertise, and lays out what options are available to them. "[EWB] goes into the community, but the community decides, rather than us telling them what to do," said Owen. "The people in the community have to make the decision."

Along with overseas work, EWB also does local community outreach and public awareness campaigns. This is where the UVic chapter is involved. "The overseas program is the focal point," said Owen, "but it is a small percentage of what we do."

This year their national campaign is targeted at high schools and is focused on water. They also do public outreach on AIDS in Africa in conjunction with CARE, an international humanitarian organization fighting poverty.

Owen points out that not everyone in EWB is an engineer. Approximately half of its members are from faculties other than engineering.



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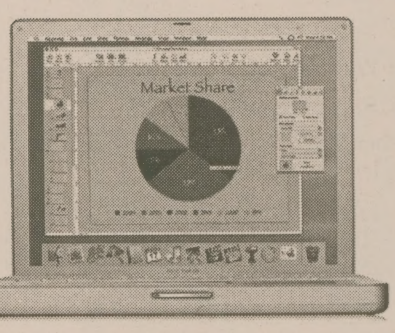

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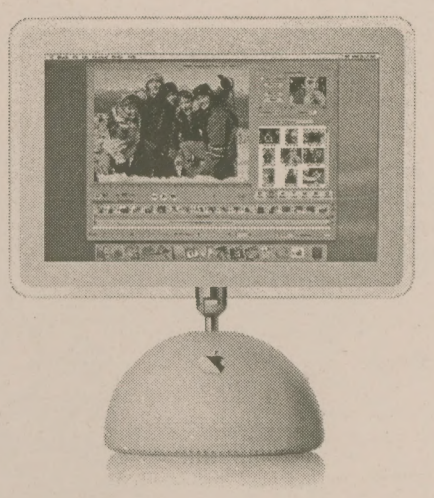

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Alliance leader rips CFS on same-sex marriage

by Adam Grachnik
Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Canadian Alliance Leader Stephen Harper has come out swinging against Canada's largest student lobby group in their strong support of same-sex marriage, less than 24 hours after the defeat of his party's motion to "reaffirm" the heterosexual definition of marriage.

Speaking outside the House of Commons, Harper was straightforward and edgy after fielding reporters' questions for 30 minutes on the divisive marriage issue.

"I was a university student for a long time and neither I nor anyone else I ever studied with felt they were represented by the Canadian Federation of Students, on anything," Harper told Canadian University Press, after being asked to respond to the CFS' opposition to his motion.

The Alliance motion, to define marriage as "the union of one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others," was identical to a 1999 motion from the then Reform party. In 1999, it passed 216 to 55.

Yet, this time around the Alliance motion narrowly failed 137 to 132, which CFS National Deputy Chairperson James Pratt said still shows that "there is backwards thinking. Homophobia does exist in society."

Harper challenged the CFS' legitimacy.

"While I appreciate their view on educational issues, we'll take our guidance from people themselves, whether they're young or old, on those kinds of issues without necessarily having to get the approval of the CFS," Harper said.

When asked about CFS representing almost 450,000 post-secondary education students, Harper replied:

"No they don't. 450,000 students are forced to provide them, through compulsory dues, with money, and I would suggest that most of them don't support the CFS."

CFS has joined forces with a number of organizations to form Canadians for Equal Marriage, a group that includes MPs, religious leaders, and labour groups to strongly support rights for the gay community, including same-sex marriages.

For their part, the CFS brushed off the opposition leader's remarks.

"The Alliance doesn't listen to most people and that's why they haven't made a stab at forming government," Pratt said, saying he'd prefer to stick to the issue of same-sex marriage

"The issue on the table is that to have true equality we have to recognize same-sex unions," he said, adding that some politicians are out of touch with society. He said that even if this government doesn't pass same-sex marriage legislation, one day, when young people are calling the shots, it will happen.

"It's unfortunate that [Harper] brushed off today's youth and tomorrow's leaders," said Gilles Marchildon, the executive director of Egale Canada, an advocacy group for the LGBTQ community across Canada and another partner in Canadians for Equal Marriage.

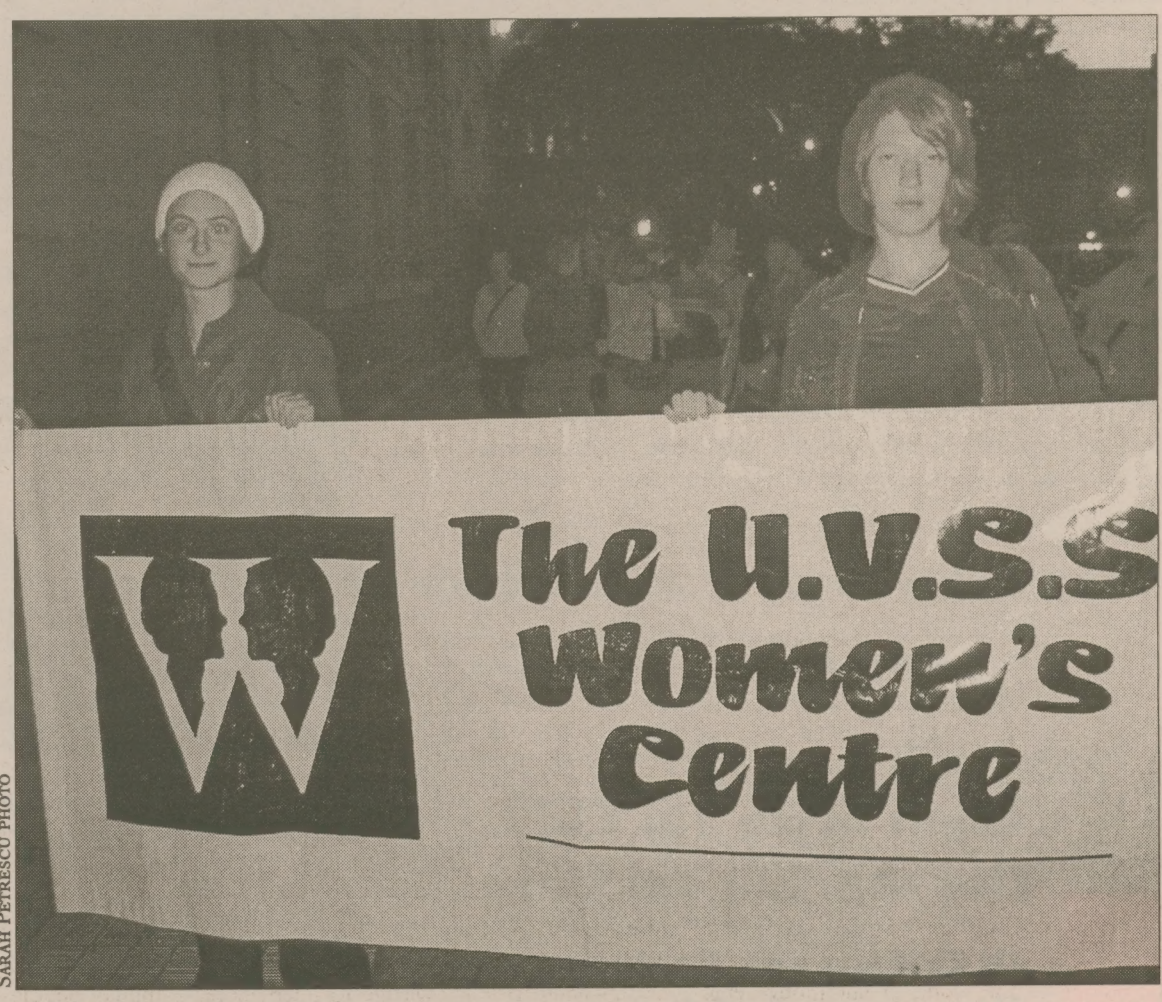
Marchildon said the fact that the motion failed is a relief, but it must serve as a wakeup call that supporters of same-sex marriages cannot take anything for granted.

"For youth, it's a no-brainer that full equality should be extended to same-sex marriage," he said.

Wednesday, NDP MP Svend Robinson's private members bill to amend the hate propaganda section of the Criminal Code, to add sexual orientation to a list of groups legally protected from incitement of hatred and genocide, passed 141 to 110.

A federal bill legalizing same-sex marriages should be presented in the House of Commons, after the Supreme Court of Canada gives legal opinion.

Take Back the Dusk



Sarah Petrescu photo

A small but enthusiastic crowd marched through Victoria's downtown during the Take Back the Night rally on Friday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The international event was started in 1978 to raise awareness about violence against women.
In past years, Take Back the Night has endured sexist badgering from onlookers, but beyond a few hecklers outside Monty's bar on Douglas street, there were no problems this year.

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Mustard Seed pleas for help

BY SARAH PETRESCU

The shelves at the Mustard Seed foodbank are empty and organizers are appealing to everyone for help, including students.

"We have a severe shortage," said foodbank director Brent Palmer, "It is very bleak."

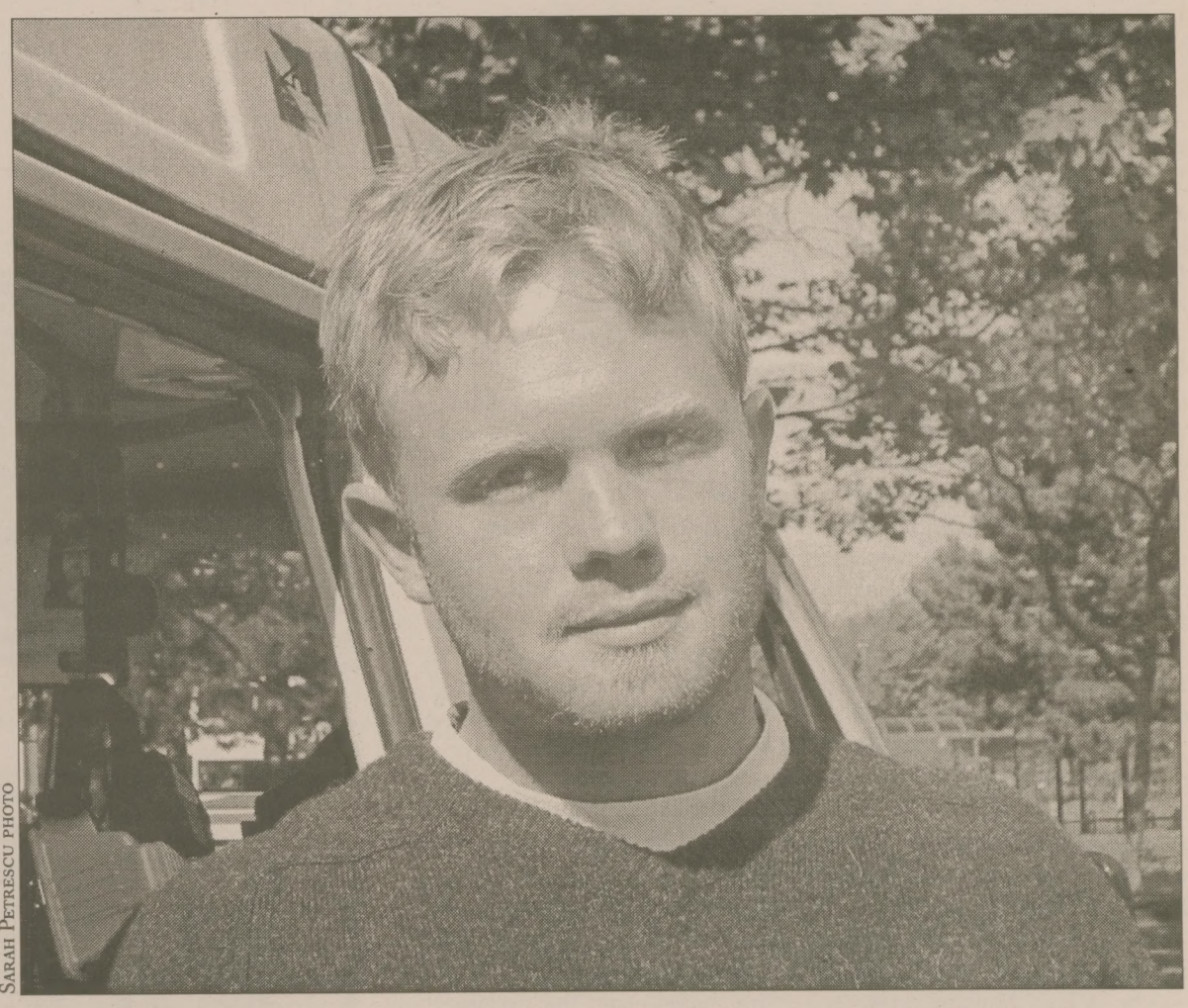
Palmer attributes the shortage to supplies being exhausted this summer when thousands in areas affected by forest-fire were in need of emergency food. He said normally this time of year the warehouse is full, but this year they are barely stocked. Palmer is nervous that they will not be able to aid their 6,000 clients in the Victoria area who rely upon them for food.

A new food drive campaign targets UVic students with the introduction of four campus food bin drop-off locations. The drive has been organized by Mustard Seed Youth Pastor and UVic Biology student Chris Pollock.

Pollock said that he had to do something when he started seeing kids coming to youth group hungry. "We are falling short of being able to provide. Many families rely upon us but are going home hungry," said Pollock.

Pollock believes that his peers can help the poverty-stricken families of Victoria. "If people can just remember to put a couple of cans of food in their backpacks and drop them off, it will make a huge difference," he said. "Now is the time to give."

The Mustard Seed drop-off sites will be available as of Monday Sept. 29 in the lobbies of the CIT, MacLaurin, Engineering and University Centre buildings.



SARAH PETRESCU PHOTO

Mustard Seed Church Youth Pastor Chris Pollock takes his "Drive-By Cafe" van to the streets of Victoria in an effort to feed the city's hungry.

Pierre Berton, Naomi Klein, Rick Salutin

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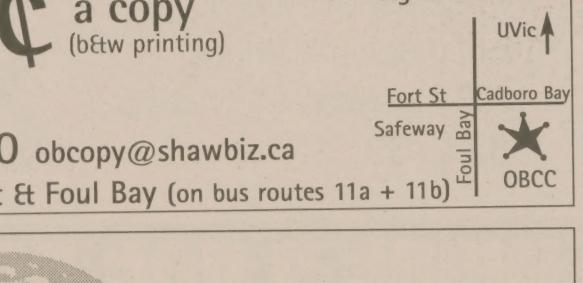

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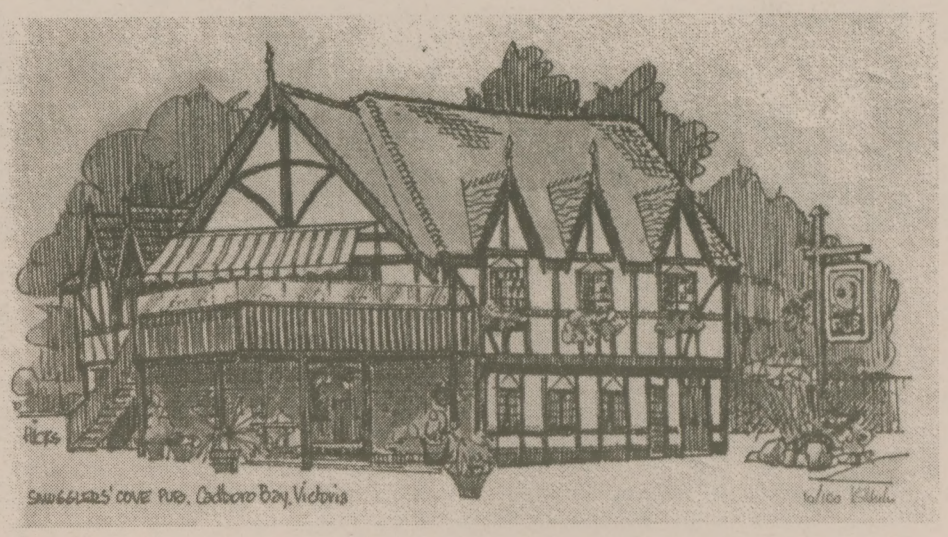

Smuggler's Cove Pub offers a cosy pub atmosphere that caters to a wide variety of customers ranging from the locals, visiting tourists staying in nearby B&Bs and UVic staff and students.
The menu reflects traditional pub food to more specialty items that change seasonally. Specials from the kitchen are offered every day as well as Sunday Brunch from only $9.95.

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News Briefs

Trial date set for former SUB manager

Vivek Sharma, the former business manager of the Student Union Building (SUB) accused of embezzling funds from the UVic Students' Society, has turned himself in to Saanich Police. He is accused of stealing around $30,000 from the society.

Sharma's lawyer, Adrian Brooks, said the speculations over Sharma's whereabouts, that had him hiding out everywhere from Europe to India, were unfounded. "He went to live with his family in Quebec. He got back to working and got on with his life. As soon as the police contacted him, he contacted me."

The scheduled trial date for Sharma is Dec. 17.

Slasher update

Saanich police have made some progress on last week's slashing incident outside the SUBversion party at the Student Union Building.

Three witnesses have come forward to provide solid descriptions of those involved in the Sept. 13 altercation in which two men attacked a group of four men, but the perpetrators are still at-large. "We are still looking for the suspects," said Saanich Constable Chris Horsley. "Anyone using a sharp-edged weapon is obviously of interest to us."

Three of the men were injured and taken to hospital. Anybody who has information on the incident is asked to contact Saanich Police and quote file number 03-21965.

Students vote on reading break

Want a five-day reading break? The Senate Committee on Agenda and Procedures is currently reviewing UVic's reading breaks, and they are taking student input.

From Sept. 23 to Oct. 14 students can go to webvote.uvic.ca and vote on how many days they want both fall and spring reading breaks to be. The choices are zero, three and five days.

University Secretary Sheila Sheldon Collyer said the results of the vote won't necessarily change anything. "I will take the results to the committee and they will take them to Senate. Whether we change or not is completely up to Senate," she said.

The committee decided that the most effective way to gauge student and faculty opinions would be to conduct a web survey.

The committee is also looking into reading breaks at other schools, but they have found little conformity. "So far what we have seen is all over the map," said Collyer. "Some schools have two five-day breaks and others have no breaks at all.

Bug push ready to roll

The Engineering Students Society (ESS) is ready to roll for this year's Bug Push.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 26 and ending at 9 a.m. the next day, teams of four to five people will take turns pushing a modified Volkswagen Beetle around Ring Road. Each team will push the car for 30 minutes at a time.

Every year the ESS stages the 24-hour Bug Push to raise money for the United Way.

Sean Paterson, one of the organizers, emphasized that it's not only engineering students who are involved, and he challenges every other faculty to come out and take a turn to raise money.

"We're looking for people," he said. "We want to get the entire university out there pushing and involved."

Last year's event raised about $2,000, and this year's goal is to top $2,400.

People can support the event with pledges or a straight donation. The ESS will have a table set up in front of the Student Union Building during the Bug Push. Anyone who wants to take a turn pushing the car or donate money can do so there.

The car has been modified to make it easier to push. The engine has been removed, but the steering and brakes are still functional. Handles have also been added to give pushers something to hang onto.

Organizers ask that people wanting to take a turn pushing the bug come to them first, and don't just jump on the car. There were problems last year when some students tried to start pushing without notifying the organizers.

Peterson said this has previously been a problem during the night. There tend to be fewer people around, and rowdy drinkers find it an opportune time to join in.

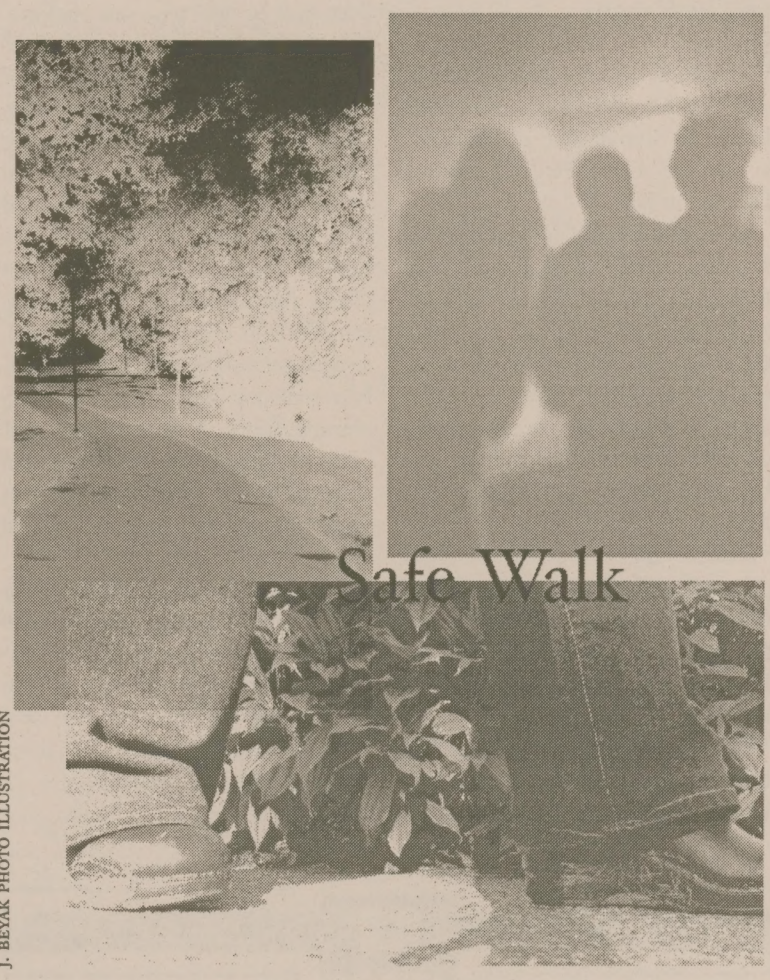
The opening ceremony will take place Friday morning at 8:45 a.m. in front of the SUB when a bottle of champagne will be broken over the hood of the car.

Needle exchange van hits the streets of victoria

A mobile needle exchange program just launched by the Victoria AIDS Resource and Community Service Society aims to address concerns over the presence of discarded needles in local neighbourhoods. "Mobile X" will offer services from outreach workers and volunteers in an effort to clean up the streets and lessen the risk of people contracting AIDS and Hepatitis B. The Mobile X van will operate 8:30am to 3pm Monday to Friday at locations throughout the city.

You're not alone on campus

by Bryna Hallam



J. Beyak photo illustration

In the wake of several violent incidents on campus, Campus Security wants to let UVic students know about programs in place to ensure their safety on campus.

Fiona Puszka, Personal Safety Coordinator for Campus Security, said their focus is on crime prevention.

One of their most used programs is Safewalk, which provides students and faculty with walking escorts on campus after dark.

Hunter McDonald, Campus Security Director, said the program is frequently used. He points out that some classes get out quite late, and that later in the semester it gets dark earlier in the day. Safewalk escorts provide a sense of security to those who would otherwise have to cross campus alone.

Another popular program for those staying late at UVic is Campus Alone, which provides security officers who will check in on those staying on campus late to ensure that they are safe and do not feel threatened.

"Potentially, you could be the only one in the building [late at night]," said McDonald. Using the Campus Alone service means that someone will be aware of where you are should anything go wrong.

UVic also offered a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course for many years, but due to occupational health and safety concerns it is not being offered at this time.

RAD classes offered students a chance to practice their moves on instructors during the final meeting. Despite the fact that both the instructor and student were fully padded, some instructors ended up with concussions.

According to Puszka, there were also problems with people signing up for the classes, and then not showing up for them, resulting in cancellations.

Tips for staying safe on campus

- Walk against traffic whenever possible, and to keep six to eight feet away from corners to give yourself increased reaction time in case someone is there. As well, students with cars would do well to scan the interior of their car before getting in.
- It is important to trust your instinct. Don't appear to be a potential victim or easy mark.
- If you have any concerns, call Campus Security at 721-7599.

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Retired general and war child advocate speaks out

BY TIM HANSON

A packed UVic senate chamber audience sat awed and moved by a lecture on war-affected children given by Lt. Gen. (retired) Romeo Dallaire on Sept. 15.

As former Commander of United Nations forces in Uganda and Rwanda, Dallaire witnessed first-hand the atrocities of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994 and its effects on children. Recently retired from the army, he is now the Special Advisor on War-Affected Children to the Canadian International Development Agency.

Dallaire spoke passionately from personal experiences, commanding the room not as a stern millitary man, but as a man humbled by the violence he had seen over the course of his 35 year military career.

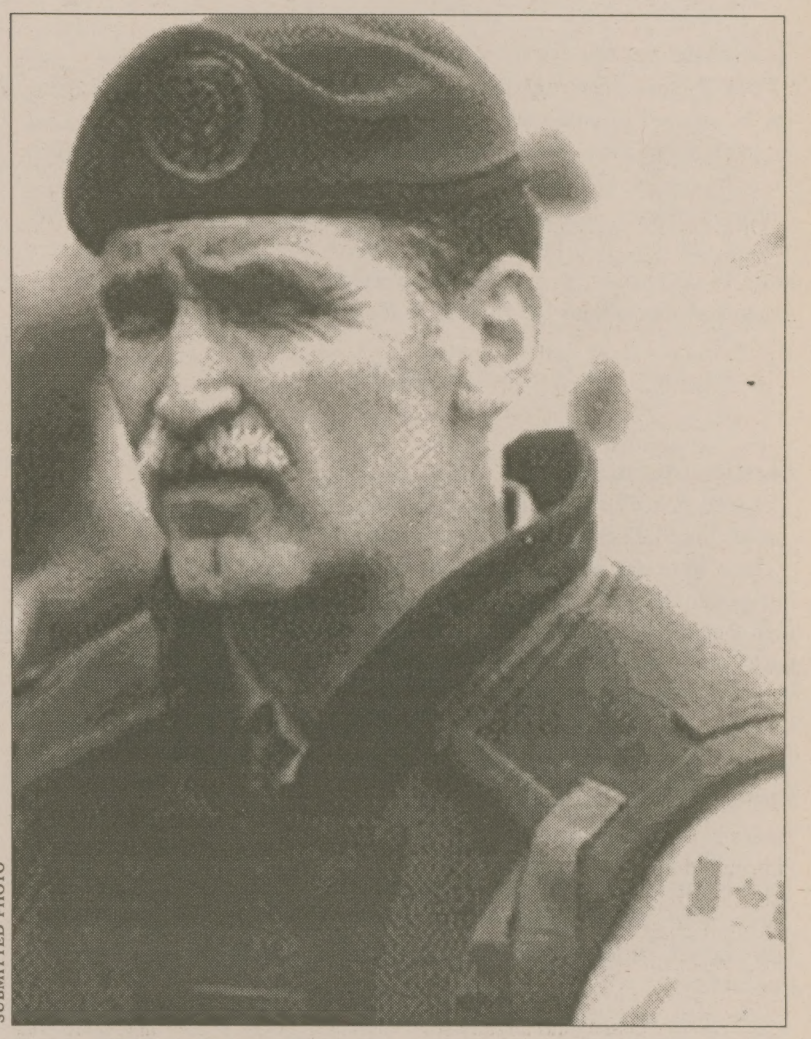
Dallaire spoke most strongly about the distressing fact that many third world countries are turning to children as their new weapons platform. As assault soldiers or as mere diversions in ambushing humanitarian aid, Dallaire described children being exploited for the expendability of their lives.

Gen. Dallaire himself witnessed boys firing weapons from behind a human shield of little girls, herds of village children walking through live minefields in efforts to defuse them, and girls as young as 13 being sexually assaulted as bush wives to young, warring tribes. It is estimated that 300,000 children have been used as a weapon in the bloody conflicts of extremist governments and tribal wars.

Gen. Dallaire also voiced strong opinions of disillusionment with the UN and the character of the international community at large. In 100 days of the Rwandan conflict, over 800,000 people lost their lives. Dallaire was on the ground in Rwanda pleading for assistance, but his pleas fell on deaf ears. He said that member countries of the UN intervene only when they deem it within the interest of the UN to do so, and that peacekeeping only becomes an option when there are political gains to be made for the peacekeeping effort, or when the human atrocity becomes highly publicized. While hundreds of thousands were being tortured, mutilated and killed, Nancy Kerrigan was receiving more press time for being kneecapped in a skating rink.

At the same time, Dallaire stressed that peacekeeping in troubled areas of the world is always a risky venture. He relayed one experience of being caught between a group of knife-wielding boys and a large, armed militia while trying to protect wounded civilians. In such predicaments, he said, the traditional rules of engagement do not apply.

Dallaire's frightening conclusion was that we have slipped into where the value of human life is calculated on what gains we can receive in return, and that some humans are more human than others. In our peaceful and sheltered Western world, he said we have forgotten that "the advancement of our race must advance all human beings."



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Romeo Dallaire brings firsthand accounts of war to the university community.

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The man and his music

David Clenman's 'Music Listening 115' has chutzpah

BY DAN WILDE

Drop in for a lecture at David Clenman's "Music 115: Listening to Music," and music will never sound, or look, the same again. There is much to be said about the uninhibited comedic stylings of David Clenman. Susan Elizabeth Dalby, MA (Musicology) and TA for Clenman's Music 115, says, "From my experience, I've never known a prof to be this involved or this creative."

On a typical day of lecture, a quiet murmur interrupts a silent shock of students waiting patiently to be seated. A full-bearded man, voice deeper than the Mariana Trench, strolls vigorously through the throng of students in the hallway. His hand is waving in all directions; a smile is imprinted on his warm face. While he waits, he hums a Baritone plainchant, and all else falls silent, if only for a moment. "There he is," a student blurts too loudly. It is only the third week of classes and already students are eagerly anticipating the professor's arrival. Clenman grins.

"The bottom line is I love it," says Clenman. He is referring to music in general, although one gets the sense that sharing it with others emotes an equal reaction. "Music creates an interaction among people. I think we've lost that a lot, [and] I'm trying to restore that community aspect."

Clenman has been hanging his hat at the Victoria Conservatory of Music for nearly eight years. In part, this has led to a position at UVic, where he is beginning his second year as an introductory and second-year music theory instructor. Despite this apparent success, Clenman admits that he has had many personal and professional triumphs, as well as hardships. "There were lots of struggles," says Clenman.

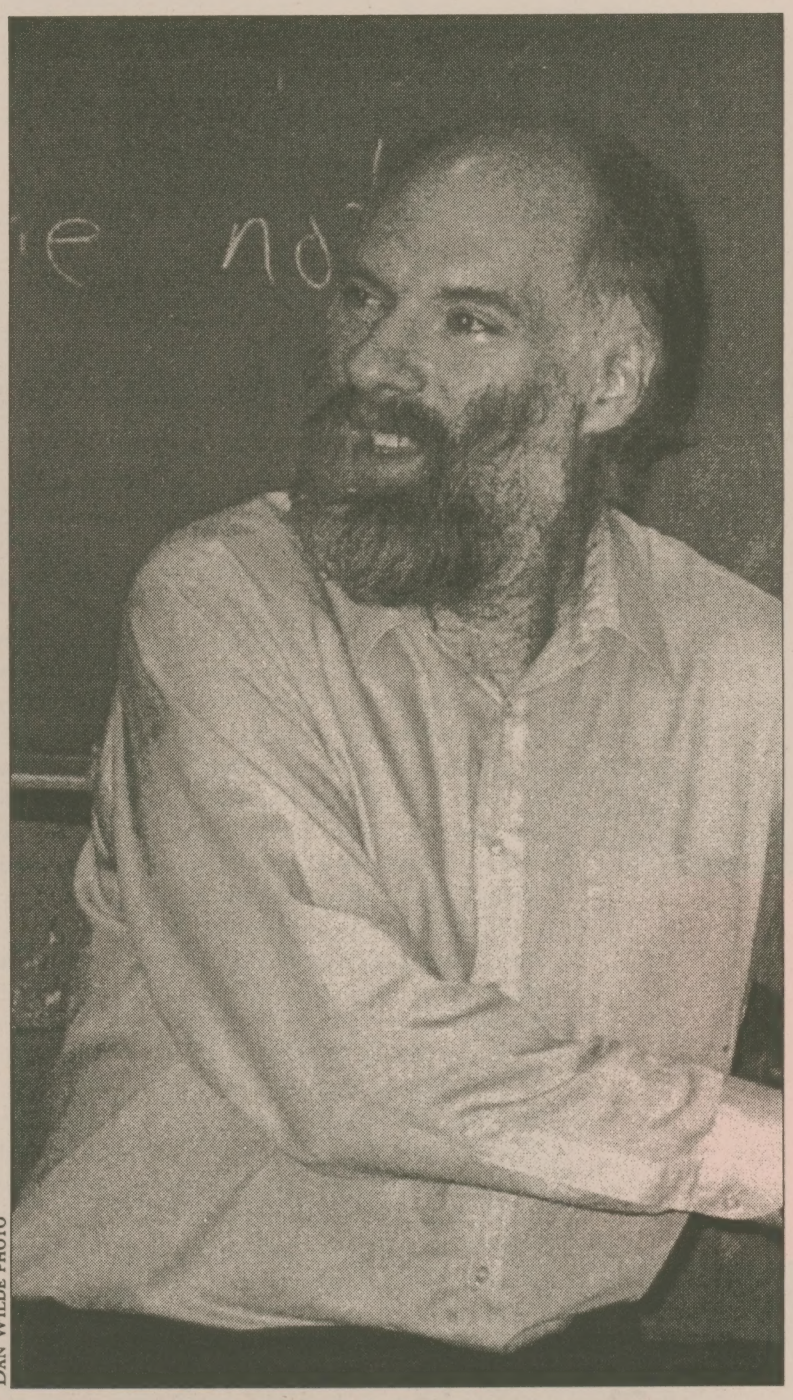
Growing up in Toronto, the instructor remembers his father's love for the piano. Although family demands prevented his father from pursuing a professional music career, a young David Clenman was impressed early on by his father's talent. Held by this admiration and respect, David recalls one of his earliest memories relating to music: "My family went to see a performance. I couldn't go. I was four years old."

It was at the tender age of 15 that David Clenman began tutoring eager young musicians such as himself, and today, an almost imperceptible evolution is still occurring with Clenman's teaching style. Each class seems to lead unknowingly to the next, keeping students in a state of perpetual anticipation. For example, the first class of the Fall semester was taught by "Pythagoras," complete with ancient Greek robe and sandals. It was said that David Clenman, who was unable to make the first day of class, would replace Pythagoras the following lecture. Instead, a Middle Age monk taught the next class. "I love history; there are things from the past that I don't want to see lost," says Pythagoras.

"I think it is very important to shift perspectives in looking at music; it helps to understand it better." A pianist by trade, Clenman certainly displays a wide range of instruments and techniques to his students. Along with the mood set by lighting, props, instruments, speech and/or singing, the classroom comes alive. Each lecture becomes a new experience with music; an experience that most students feel comfortable sharing with others.

As inevitable as UVic's tuition increase is, so is the good feeling students take with them after a session with David Clenman. "I am a humanist and I think people should feel good. I'm hoping that some of my enthusiasm for music rubs off on the students."

To the man who delivers it, and to the music that promises to inspire UVic students well into the future, Bravo!



DAN WILDE PHOTO

Colorful Clenman is a professor that has mastered the art of engaging.

She knows the truth about the BC government's environmental record.

It's time you learned the truth too.

www.BCFacts.org

One family, four lives

Perspectives on same-sex marriage

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

It was a nine-year-old child who really put the issue into perspective.

"This idea of legalizing gay marriages, it's really an issue of legalizing gay people," this child said to me.

I was volunteering at a summer camp and had forgotten that some children really like to read everything, including the news. When I said I didn't quite understand, she explained it like this: if it's not legal, then it must be illegal. Gay people are illegal because the only way they're really different is because of who they want to marry. This was her theory.

I had no answer, for as black-and-white as her explanation was, as innocent and simple, she had a point. The only real difference between homosexual and heterosexual people is the sex thing: the intimate relationship between two people. Otherwise, we're all pretty much the same.

It is not often that "the church" (religious groups, usually Christian) and "the state"(Federal government) butt heads. In fact, the last time I remember it occurring so intensely in the media was in 1992, following the ordination of an openly gay reverend in the United Church of Canada. When it does happen, it seems to happen with a vengeance and just about everybody has an opinion on the subject.

Take the issue of ordaining an openly gay man to be a minister. Twenty years after it was first suggested and 10 years after it happened, the issue is still reverberating through my life.

Last spring I was sitting with a new friend, an acquaintance really. We ended up discussing religion, and it came up that both of us had been brought up in the United Church. Casually he explained that he and his family had left the church in the early 1990s because the church decided to ordain gays. In particular, they left after one gay man had been ordained. There was a pause in conversation then–a moment of realization for me. For that man who caused my friend to leave the church, Reverend Tim Stevenson, the first openly gay minister in Canada, is one of my fathers.

"My dad left the church because of your dad! Ha, ha," was his jovial response to my news, something that sounded like a school-yard taunt. Ha, ha, ha. He laughed and I did too; it was a coincidental intersection of our lives. It was funny, in an ironic way, but later I cried.

My father was the reason his dad left the church. To me, it's a pretty big deal. A family left their faith, their community, their place of worship because a man they never met, who lived a province away, wanted to be himself while he worked for God.

It is 2003 now, and the head butting is back. This time, the issue is over the legalization of same-sex marriages.

There are a lot of different groups shooting their opinions around the media right now: right-wing bigots, religious groups, gay liberation/rights groups, political parties and of course the Supreme Court of Canada. Blame passes from group to group, letters and interviews reference religious texts about the sin of homosexuality (one man even wrote to Maclean's magazine saying the forest fires in the B.C. were God's response to the issue), citizens criticize the closed-minded homophobia they see in others, and a lot of words like "normal," "natural" and "tradition" are thrown about.

What's curious is that hardly anyone asks what gay and lesbian people think of the whole issue. Let me tell you, opinions are not unanimous. Sex and politics have never been easy subjects: gay or straight, they carry the baggage of personal beliefs and experience.

The Politico

"I agree with [legalizing same-sex marriage]. A bit surprised that it's coming as quickly as it is, but it's the latest in a whole string of victories of equality," says Reverend Tim Stevenson, now a city councillor for the City of Vancouver. Compared to his life 10 or 20 years ago, Stevenson feels that equality has come a long way. "I look back in my lifetime, we've come so far, so fast. I never in my wildest dreams thought that."

Stevenson is well known for contributing to the gains won by homosexual people. In addition to his decades of community-based involvement in the gay and lesbian community, he was the first openly gay ordained minister in Canada, the first gay Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) in British Columbia in 1996 and the first gay provincial cabinet minister.

Nowadays, he says this issue is "hugely symbolic in the papers, in the news." He believes that young people will see the media and think "My God! Society recognizes me. The situation has changed a lot, but homophobia runs deep in this society. We have a long way to go.... My dream is that in generations to come, whether you are gay or straight, that it'll be like being right or left handed. That kids will be able to date, be free to say 'I'm gay' and date. That people don't think you're a pariah."

Coming out in the late 1970s, when most kept silent, he made a conscious decision to get involved in the gay liberation movement. He became the president of GayUBC and founded Gay Week on campus in 1980–an event that continues across Canada, usually around National Coming Out Day on October 11.

"Sometimes people ask me if I would rather be straight, and I say 'never,' because now I am true to myself."

The Minister

"I see no real justification legally or religiously why two people of the same gender should be excluded. A number of different ideas of marriage have been accepted through time," says Gary Paterson, an openly gay minister at Ryerson United Church in Vancouver, B.C.

"I see our heart and genitals as being hard-wired. I think to separate them, to use genitals only for fun, you'll eventually damage your heart, psyche, soul, well-being... this is not a moral thing or a health thing," he adds. "With marriage, we're trying to build something: a unity, a connection between two people."

For Paterson, the question is, "how do we best support relationships that give life to individuals and life and stability to society?" He sees marriage as a conservative idea for the gay community, something that radical gay people may oppose as it reinforces the heterosexual institution of marriage.

"It counters public gay culture: promiscuity, fast-living, good looks. That can be true, but now, okay, there's marriage. There is much less imagery of what happens to gay couples when they settle down. Marriage is just one way of raising [public awareness] to expressions of gay commitment. I think youth will be heartened by that."

Indeed, Paterson has a lot to say about youth, noting that while it is never easy for a person to say they are different, especially in their teen years when identities are still being formed, the more affirmations in society the better.

"I don't see a lot of university students getting married, but this allows future dreams. There is a place [for gay people] to be acceptable. It gives hope in the process of accepting orientation.

"I honestly cannot comprehend why people are so vehement, so scared of homosexuals," he says. "The very fact that gay people want to marry reaffirms marriage. After the divorce rate is 50 per cent and common law marriage is rising, if someone wants to get married, Praise the Lord!"

But the hatred is very real, he says, especially from the public response over same-sex marriages. The things people say, in letters or interviews, can get "quite ugly."

"Thank God there's a legal system to protect us. If we were turned over to the public, I think they'd string us up. It was done in the past: burning faggots, jail time, hospitalization, or being fired. It scares me and it angers me that people could be so narrow-minded. People claim the Bible, but I know enough biblical [information] to know it's nonsense. I think it's something else... I think people are honestly worked up about it, they claim biblical religious reasons, but it's more than that. They are using this as a lightning rod instead of looking deeper at other social, political, economic reasons. We never work up passion about greed or famine or poverty, but we can about sex. Why is that when millions are dying?"

PROVIDED PHOTOS

In writing this story I went back to my friend from last spring and tracked down his father, the one who had left the United Church along with his family in 1992. I wanted to know, why was homosexuality such an issue?

"At the time, it was the straw that broke the camel's back," said his father (who wishes to remain anonymous) on the phone. "There was a lot of political rhetoric coming out of [the church base in Ontario]. I felt that they weren't listening. Being good Canadians, as long as it didn't affect us and our church, we didn't mind."

But this belief, that they weren't affected, fell apart following a church conference where certain delegates felt embarrassed and coerced into voting to accept gay ministers. My friend's father said he felt forced into the issue.

"I was against it at the time. My feeling was I didn't want... to know about homosexuals. A minister is put on a pedestal, is an example to look up to. I didn't want that," he said. "I don't have the same feelings [now].... My views have changed dramatically since then."

He believes in equal rights and supports the victories won by gay and lesbian people in the last few years in improving their rights and recognition. He also believes there is openness and tolerance now.

"My seven years at university, at that age we were invincible, we thought we could change the world," he said. "We were always left-leaning, stirring the pot, fighting for the underdogs. I think the younger generation thinks the older generation is not tolerant, bigots. But we're not.

"I learnt tolerance from my sons. They used to tease me, look at my neck and call it a red neck. I think people your age have taught us a great deal about tolerance and seeing the world differently."

In terms of legalizing gay marriage however, he is still not supporting it.

"It's the union of a man and a woman. You shouldn't try to change the definition," he said. "Civil unions, benefits, that's fine–but don't try to call it otherwise. It goes against the building blocks of North American culture, religion. Marriage is marriage.

"There's going to be such a backlash... when you try and assault the word marriage, that's where you have problems. People get defensive. They don't think. You go back to bigotry again."

Perhaps we, the students–the younger generation–have taught an older generation something about accepting difference, but things really aren't that different. The word "fag" is still an insult scrawled on the doors of residence buildings, or shouted from passing cars. Schools still aren't a safe space: three homosexual students refused to be interviewed for this piece because they were afraid of backlash. And university students like Matthew Sheppard are still being beaten to death by fellow students because of their sexual orientation.

The Teacher

"I think everyone should support it," says Libbie Bake, a primary school teacher living in Vancouver, B.C. "I think we are entitled to the same rights, freedoms, benefits offered by our Federal government. Legalizing same-sex marriage allows consenting loving adults to live freely under the protection of our constitutional rights. "This is long overdue."

Still, her feelings about marriage are ambivalent. She says it's important to have the right, but she personally does not feel the need to get married.

"The righteousness of the Catholic Church drove me away long ago and the religious dogma that is used to defend traditional marriage reinforces why church has become so irrelevant to me," says Bake, who finished her graduate program in early literacy this year. "My lifelong commitment with Judi is defined by what is important to us and I haven't felt I needed the sanction of faith or God."

Granted, she says that if marriage can provide more protection, then it would be something she'd consider. Ultimately, though, she believes the biggest gain from legalizing same-sex marriage will be in public recognition.

"The whole national debate can only help to broaden people's perspectives of difference."

The Librarian

"I don't think it's one of the issues Libbie and I thought would be the most important," says Judi Walker, a branch head at the Vancouver Public Library and Libbie Bake's partner of 21 years.

"We've always felt we were committed to each other," she says. "Raising three children and buying a house together have provided us an extra emotional and legal bond.

"The legal protection [of marriage] appeals to me. When our kids were very young, we had no protection. We worried we could lose them simply because we were lesbians. We have benefitted from those hard-fought gains."

Having spent their relationship being very "out" to family, friends, co-workers and neighbours, both Libbie Bake and Judi Walker feel they have helped to provide a face to attach to the word homosexual. "If Libbie and I getting married helps gays and lesbians take one more baby step to being accepted as normal, then I'm all for it."

Walker has her own ambivalent feelings because for her, marriage is the commitment to each other that goes on and on. So on a personal day-to-day level, she and her partner have already made their vows. There may not have been a wedding, but they wear their grandmothers' wedding rings and have celebrated their 15th anniversary. They file their income tax as a couple, and "at some point along the way, we bought our own toaster."

But to every story there is overlap, and Judi Walker was also raised in the United Church, a place she calls "a fairly open and questioning religious environment."

"I was struggling with my own orientation at the same time [in 1982] as the United Church began struggling with the issue of ordaining gays and lesbians. Ironically, this was affecting our family of seven very directly since Gary and Tim were working to be accepted as gay ordained ministers."

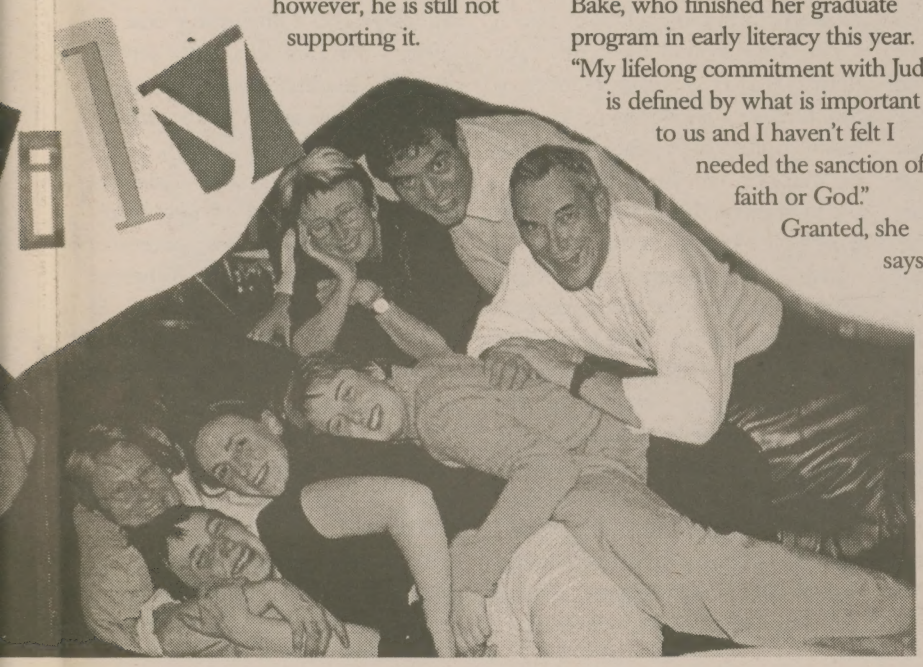
Yes, there is the truth. This story is of my family, of the seven of us: the dads, Gary and Tim; the moms, Libbie and Judi; and the three daughters: Kate, Emily and Zoë. Tell me, does it make a difference?

My mother was sitting in the shade on the front porch this summer when a young child and her grandmother walked by.

The child paused, looking up at the beach-towel sized rainbow flag hanging from the front porch–actually a peace flag from Italy with the word "Pace," meaning "Peace," on it, with rainbow colours recalling those of the Pride flag. It was hung to stand for both peace and pride.

She asked her grandmother which country had a flag like that, and the older woman said she didn't know.

"Well, I bet nice people live there," said the girl.



EDITORIAL

Lost in the woods

Ah, last spring…Remember Cunningham Woods? The tree-sit? All those cute hippies swinging around the treetops?

It was a great time to be alive.

Well, the story isn't over yet. This week, the Campus Development Committee (CDC) is holding its latest round of public consultation–and instead of debating over which trees are going to be cut, these meetings are about the structure of the CDC itself.

In case you're not familiar with the grim details of administrative organization, the CDC is responsible for guiding the direction of development at UVic. It makes no actual decisions–only recommendations to the university president–but it remains the arena where students, faculty and community members can and have made a difference in how the campus looks and feels.

For the past five years, the CDC's main role has been to prepare the Campus Development Plan–a rough blueprint for how UVic will grow in the next ten to fifteen years. The original campus plan had little mention of environmental concerns, and most consider the updated plan, approved last spring by the Board of Governors, a great leap forward. These changes were made by contributions and general hell-raising by students, faculty and community members.

That's not to say the CDC doesn't have problems. At the first meeting on Monday night, Chris King, a History and Art professor, called the committee "truly bloated." At 25 members, including no less than 10 Deans and three Vice-Presidents, it's far too big and far too high level for any meaningful "consultation" to happen. At that level, everyone is simply too busy–King said he tried to get five minutes to speak with CDC Chair Jack Falk and was told that "until the end of October, that's pretty much impossible."

Critics point out that Falk's role on the CDC itself could be a problem. As the Vice President of Finance and Operations, his job is to keep everything on budget, rather than keep trees standing. With that said, he's often painted as a 19th century robber baron, when in fact he's made considerable concessions to environmental concerns over the past two years.

Not all change has happened inside the CDC. Last spring, the tree-sitters sidestepped the lengthy consultation process and talked directly to the architect commissioned to design the new engineering building, the one that was threatening the big Douglas Firs in Cunningham Woods. It turned out the architect was sympathetic. He reworked his plans, and the building was moved about 75 feet over onto the parking lot.

Amazing. Tree-huggers with the power to move buildings. It's a novel idea–the community having input in the design of new buildings, how they're built, and where–anyone remember the days before the Continuing Studies Building started construction, when you could actually see Mt. Douglas from Ring Road?

As far as sustainability initiatives go for universities worldwide, Environmental Studies Director Dr. Eric Higgs describes UVic as about "mid-pack." Long way to go, he admits, but it can't happen overnight. And it can't happen without student involvement.

Alright, so these meetings aren't exactly edge-of-your-seat entertainment–they're more a test of endurance than a fiery political exchange. But as Rae St. Arneault from the POLIS Project points out, low turnout doesn't mean low interest–it is September, people are busy and many people have never heard of these meetings, let alone done the background research to understand their significance.

But you can't complain if you're not involved. So far there have only been a handful of students at these meetings, compared to 30 or 40 faculty members, administration and community representatives. Think about that ratio for a second. It's no wonder these people tend to forget about students in the planning process.

Last meeting is Thursday, Sept. 25, 7-10pm, Fraser Building room 159.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.
Don't like what you read?

Write us, or write for us: martlet@uvic.ca

Paul Martin, now that you have basically been voted our next Prime Minister, how do you view Health Care, Tax Cuts and Same-Sex Marriages?
...and?
Do you have opinions on these issues?
I feel they are all very important issues.
They are important.
Oh, Lord no.

LETTERS

Student Disability Centre corrects *Martlet*

Dear Martlet,

I would like to take this opportunity to correct some of the statements made by your reporter Mary Hughes when describing the services provided by our Resource Centre for Students with a Disability.

First of all, I would like to clarify that the rooms referred to as "quiet rooms" are not intended to serve as secluded areas that students with a disability can use to rest.

As explained to Ms. Hughes and to all students contacting our Centre, these rooms are equipped with computer workstations with adaptive technology and are used by students with disabilities to work on assignments or research projects while they are on campus. The room located in the library also has a bench that students can use to occasionally lay down, but it is not, as most users will tell you, a quiet "secluded" place but a busy and at times rather noisy area.

As anyone who has worked or studied on this campus for any length of time will tell you, space allocation has become one of the major problems facing all UVic departments. The article fails to recognize and address this key issue and its impact on all students including those with a disability.

With more than 450 students with a disability now registered with our Centre, we are desperate to find more space for our operations. The same can also be said for most other student services departments at UVic, including all of our neighbours in the Campus Services Building. With government funding frozen for all non-classroom buildings, a solution to this space problem is unlikely to be found in the near future.

It is unfortunate that Ms. Hughes chose not to mention in her article that last year alone our Centre was able to provide an alternate location for more than 1,600 exams for students with a disability, or that we are spending more than $40,000 per year on our Student Aiding Student program.

I would also like to point out that Ms. Keenan and myself have more than 16 years of combined work experience directly in the field of disability service provision and have, over these years, attended numerous workshops and training seminars.

We also have served for many years on the board of CADSPPE, our national professional association, and continue to actively support NEADS, the National Educational Association of Disabled Students.

Finally, as far as I can tell Ms. Hughes based her article on conversations she had with three students. A brief chat with some of the 447 other students currently using our services would have helped in bringing a more balanced approach to her article.

Pierre Laliberte, Manager
Resource Centre for Students with a Disability
University of Victoria

"Gay porn" comment offends

While reading the Martlet between classes, I was happy to discover a review of The Order, a movie I was contemplating seeing (yes, Heath Ledger played some roll in that).

Briony Smith was articulate and convincing for almost her entire review, except the most important parts–the beginning and the end.

Throwing around the term "gay porn" in such a vulgar manner as Smith chose may, for some intellectually stunted high school students, do the trick, but I'm at UVic under the impression that intelligence aims a bit higher here than that.

Let's get this straight–I am not gay (or lesbian, whatever term you prefer), but neither do I have any objection to those who are. Using the term "gay porn" instead of just "porn," for the obvious added punch, is extremely distasteful and insulting.

Smith completely discredited herself with her opening and closing remarks. If she is as intelligent as the rest of her review suggests, I hope she steers clear of such trashy language in the future. She can obviously do much better than that.

Thanks,

Rosie Westwood

Peeved about service fees

Open letter to the Director of Finance of the UVSS:

Your students' society has an odd tendency to force people to pay for services that they do not use. For example:

Do I use your bus pass? Do I use your medical plan? Will I use your dental plan? Do I enjoy any of the UVSS services? Do I believe in the policies of the CFS?–NO.

Do I pay for all of these services?–YES.

Where, may I ask, is the logic to all of this?

Many students throughout the university pay these service fees, yet don't use them. You are simply exacerbating the financial strains on many students at a time when money is not an expendable commodity. Sure, you and a substantial number of people across campus will use these services, fine with me. But to force me to pay for others dental work, transportation and pharmaceuticals is nothing but absolute lunacy.

At the same time when you and your grossly overpaid executives complain about the rising cost of tuition, you are elevating service costs that students have no option to decide for themselves if they wish to use them.

At least my increased tuition is funding construction of new facilities, opening more class space and acquiring new technology. Whereas what your student government is doing is simply taking a substantial amount of money out of my pocket and putting it into others.

Personal choice is a value that many people hold dear. To pay for these services is not my personal choice, yet I have to pay them. There is no argument in the world that could convince me otherwise.

Spencer Sproule

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Free tuition not the solution

'The elimination of tuition fees would exacerbate rather than solve that problem'

BY RICHARD WARNICA

Another year, another rise in tuition fees, and another *Martlet* article dutifully recording the Student Union's impotent rage at the ever escalating cost of a university education.

Ah, autumn in Victoria. After having seen more Septembers here then I'd like to admit, it has become something of a comfort to have my moral compass, left dangerously free to roam in capitalist Calgary all summer, firmly steered back into place every fall by Jude Coates and the crew at the UVSS.

Just in case I might have paused to think otherwise, I was firmly reminded on page two of the year's first *Martlet* that according to the UVSS: Gordon Campbell and high tuition fees equal social injustice, starvation, and the coming reincarnation of Beelzebub, while the UVSS and free tuition equal universal access to education, social harmony, and the final realization of a bunny-laden utopia.

Unfortunately, easy as it might be to accept the "Campbell bad, no tuition fee good" line, the latter part of the line is not entirely true. While it is true that our current system of post-secondary funding is inequitable and socially regressive, the truth is that the elimination of tuition fees would exacerbate rather than solve that problem.

Since university enrollments are still made up a disproportionate number of higher income children, a fully publicly funded post-secondary system would constitute a gross transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Free tuition, with its resultant rise in taxation would mean more low income families paying for the education of high income children. Free tuition, as tempting and morally righteous as it sounds, would mean that a lot of people who could very well afford to pay for school wouldn't have to, while an equally large group prevented by socio-economic circumstances from qualifying for school in the first place still wouldn't be able to go.

However, this does not mean that there aren't significant steps, apart from continued and strenuous efforts to remove the barriers preventing lower income children from qualifying for university, that the government could take that would ease the burden on low income students.

A practical, non-regressive step towards a more socially just post-secondary system would be the institution of a comprehensive needs-based (as opposed to merit based) system of economic grants. While it could be argued that there are already grants available, the fact is that they are primarily tailored towards the academic elites.

Under a needs-based system, if students were able to prove financial need they would receive grants regardless of their academic status relative to other qualified students. After all, the elites, whether they be socio-economic, academic, or athletic, will always find somebody to fund their education. Those most desperately in need of funding are the average low-to-middle income students, and there is no reason why an average student who has qualified for university should not have recourse to an appropriate method to fund that education.

By moving towards a comprehensive system of needs based grants, the province could retain the revenue from fees paid by those who can afford to while still providing access to those who can't. Thus while free tuition is not an equitable way to transform university funding, a system of needs based grants might just be.

Plug off

Is there an impending energy crisis?

BY NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE

Next time you flick a light switch, search the Internet, play a CD or turn on your foot massager, stop and consider how much we depend on the electricity conveniently drawn from our wall outlets.

According to BC Hydro, residents of Vancouver Island may experience regular power shortages and even blackouts in the near future if a generation plant isn't built here soon. But whether we will really experience outages, like the recent electric failures on the northeast coast of the continent, is up for debate. The essence of the problem is that the current assessment of our provincial energy status differs radically depending on who you listen to: nonprofit public citizen groups or election-promise-breaking Gordon Campbell and his fellow BC Liberals.

BC Hydro says the undersea cables, which bring 80 per cent of the power used here from the mainland, are deteriorating. They insist that only on-Island energy solutions will be considered to make up the predicted 150-250 megawatt shortfall for Vancouver Island. So, we need an energy plant here, possibly privately owned. Possibly fuelled by natural gas or coal.

Yes, natural gas and coal, two significant air-polluters that produce energy at a cost at least three times that of our hydro-electric dams, which are clean and renewable energy sources. Hold on, you say. What about building new transmission lines from the mainland and just continuing to feed off their hydro-electric dams, which generate over 43,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and provide 90 per cent of the provinces electric needs?

New lines would be too expensive, says BC Hydro. And besides, a generation plant here would make Vancouver Island more self-reliant in terms of providing its citizens with reliable power. But that doesn't explain how the projected generation plant at Duke Point, possibly fuelled by natural gas piped up from Washington State, will make us self-reliant.

Opponents of BC Hydro, such as BC Citizens for Public Power and the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, say that the energy crisis has been manufactured by the government and is not supported by the evidence. They say that the Province regularly stores energy behind our dams, giving BC Hydro the luxury to sell the excess stored energy when it is sure to fetch a high price.

That "excess energy" goes mostly to out-of-province customers south of the border. According to the BC Citizens for Public Power, an internal BC Hydro document was recently released, describing plans to privatize seven BC Hydro dams. This breaks an election promise by Premier Gordon Campbell not to do so. So eventually even our precious hydro-electric dams could be sold to the highest bidder, which more or less means US ownership of the utilities built by the BC taxpayer.

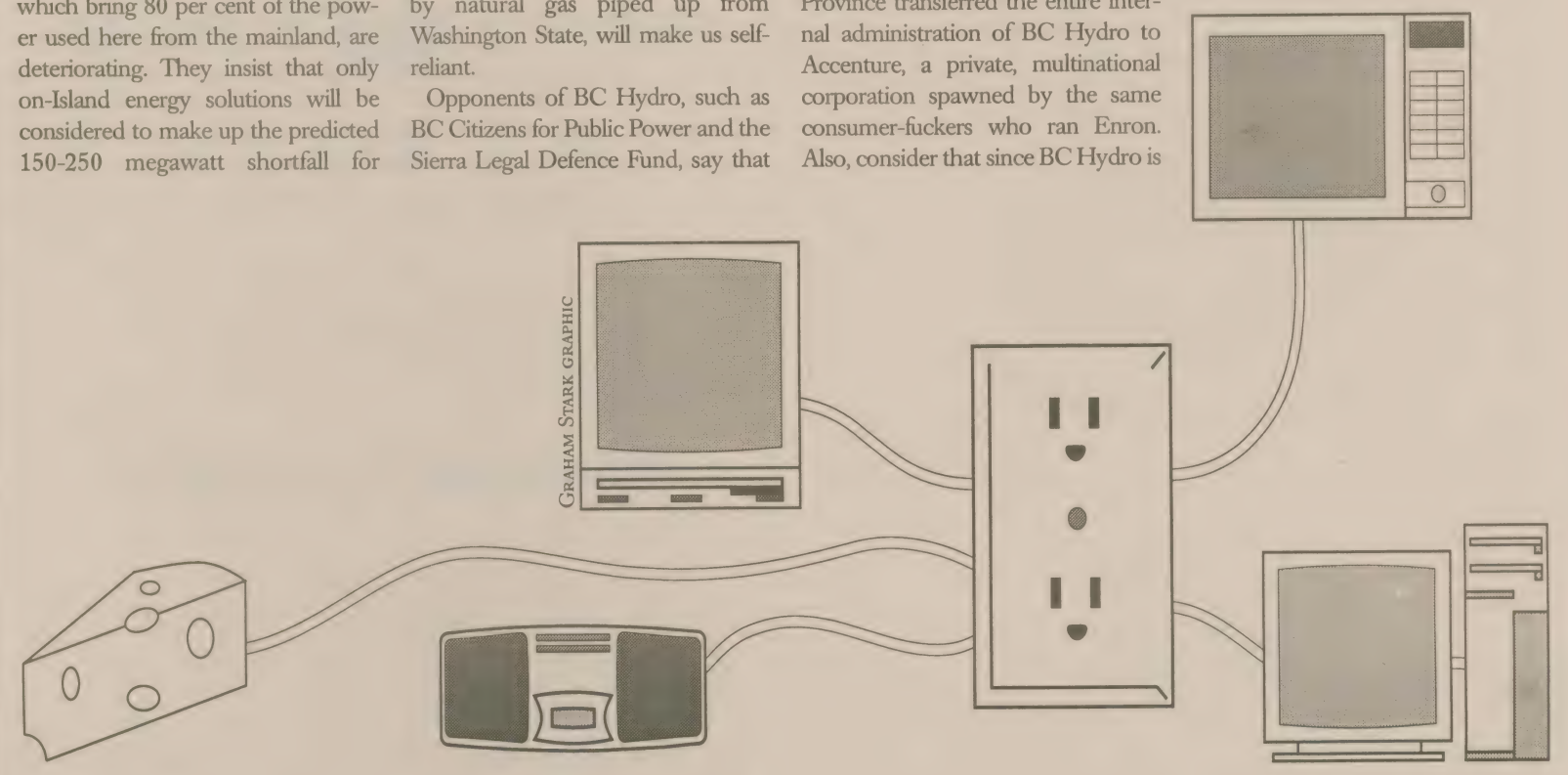
Sound too sinister an act, even for the Liberals?

Well, consider that last year the Province transferred the entire internal administration of BC Hydro to Accenture, a private, multinational corporation spawned by the same consumer-fuckers who ran Enron. Also, consider that since BC Hydro is now allowing the private sector to build new generation plants, we will probably follow in the footsteps of Alberta's energy restructuring. Nearly all of that province's newly approved generation plants will run on high emission fuel such as coal, and their prices are 300 per cent more than here in BC.

Quite obviously, maintaining a reliable, environmentally friendly energy utility for the citizens of BC is second to the Liberal's desire to liquidate core assets for quick revenue.

Unless this government's continued selloff and mismanagement of our publicly owned utilities can be stopped now, it seems we'll pay artificially high energy prices and be subjected to an unstable, money-driven, privately owned energy company.

On the upside, maybe it will be fun to stay home on a dark and cold winter's night, roasting hot dogs over the flame of a candle.



Cage could con another Oscar

BY BRIONY SMITH

Ridley Scott is a man of many talents. He has helmed such diverse projects as sci-fi classics (*Alien*, *Blade Runner*) to chick empowerment flicks (*Thelma and Louise*). He has orchestrated huge productions, including 2000's Best Picture winner *Gladiator*. But *Matchstick Men*, arriving just in time for the awards season, shows that Scott can helm a film that hinges on subtleties, little pleasures that tickle the mind.

It might strike the reader that a film where Nicolas Cage receives top billing can leave little to the imagination, but under Scott's able direction, it is Cage's performance that the film revolves around. Nicolas Cage is the most mercurial of actors, always ready to play wild and crazy, a little strung out, and ever ready to utter a whoop exhibiting just how off the hook he is. In Matchstick Men, Cage plays a con man who is great at what he does, but is crippled by myriad neuroses: facial tics, a stutter, agoraphobia and an acute case of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Cage could have gone over the top with this role, but his portrayal of Roy Waller as a man captive to a physical manifestation of the psychic guilt he feels for his profession is neither farcical nor laughable. It is yet another brilliant performance in a career that is peppered with roles that show an actor unafraid of portraying the alcoholics, the ugly, and here, the pathetic.

Roy does not stay pathetic for long, as his life is changed when it is cracked wide open by the appearance of his daughter. Enter ingénue Alison Lohman. Although she is 24, she plays the 15-year-old Angela with such abandon and fearlessness that it is hard to remember that she is of drinking age, let alone a handful of years away from 30. Her arrival in Roy's world allows him to concentrate on something other than his own conscience and his smile comes back.

She also inspires him to take on something he doesn't do: the long con. Roy is a purveyor of the short con, and his partner Frank (the talented Sam Rockwell) has been longing to fleece a big mark of his moolah. It is the cheer that Angela brings him that gives him that pep to undertake the big score. But as with all big scores, something goes awry, which is where the plot veers into crime thriller territory and leads to a big pull-the-carpet-out-from-under-the-audience switcheroo. Whether you think this plot twist is a cheap trick is up to each viewer, although the film would be worth watching again to see whether Scott earns the reversal at the end: are the clues there throughout the film?

Whether the viewer thinks it works or not, Cage's character goes through a remarkable character arc and the movie is his story, his journey. His growth is plausible and enjoyable to watch. Scott has created another wonderful film to add to his classic movie canon–and one that could bag Cage his second Oscar.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Roy (Cage) and Angela (Lohman) make nice while she avoids looking at his hideous, hideous baldness.

Yes, Ndidi: hip hop's sentient darling arrives

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Ndidi Cascade is a goddess.

Okay, so maybe that's a large label for an up-and-coming emcee from Vancouver. But this woman's rhymes and presence send chills like an ice cube down the shirt. More importantly, her social consciousness exudes so fervently through her work that she defies any negative stereotypes of women in the male-centric world of hip hop.

"Hip hop is obviously male-dominated. Most women in hip hop feel as though they need to act aggressive to have a voice and to be taken seriously, or they may feel as though they need to be pretty and/or sexy to make it," says Cascade.

"It's really sad actually because this kind of environment does not provide space for the development of female artists who can provide what is lacking in hip hop, a true feminine energy. I believe in balance… with every bit of male energy, there must be true female energy, not just novelty 'female rapper' energy."

Cascade has garnered international attention for her tight flow of rhymes, poetic justice, and enigmatic presence. She favors a collective vibe and has shared the stage with the who's who of hip hop, including Kardinal Offishal, K-OS, Choclair, and Prevail.

Currently, Cascade is working on what she calls her "official" solo album, as well as with her band Triple 3. Cascade has her toes in a variety of music projects to raise social awareness. Her "End the Silence" project is a collaborative effort with fellow artist Shankini, inspired by the long-awaited investigation of women disappearing from the lower eastside of Vancouver. She is also half of the duo Inverse with soul-singer Deanna Teeple, which is well-immersed in community involvement.

Cascade is confident and passionate about spreading herself over so many endeavours. "What is the point of being an emcee if you don't have a message that will help the community heal?" asks Cascade. "If you are not doing your part, you become part of the problem. [It's] clichéd but true! I'm not perfect, but I do hope to one day become a role model in a world that has forgotten how important it is to have positive role models."

Part of Cascade's appeal as an artist is her openness and desire to develop as a person within her trade. "I am still growing as a spiritual being. I grow and express myself and when I express myself, I re-learn certain aspects about myself," says Cascade.

"I want to be a better person, so that I can help others better themselves."

Ndidi Cascade brings her cool and grace to Victoria on Friday, Sept.26 at Steamers.

Visit www.ndidicascade.com to sample her style.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lady extraordinaire, Ndidi Cascade, contemplates her next move in saving the world. Her phat rhymes and community consciousness are provocative and special. Sigh, she's so dreamy....

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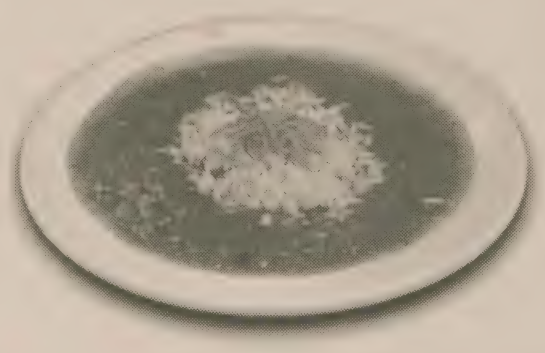

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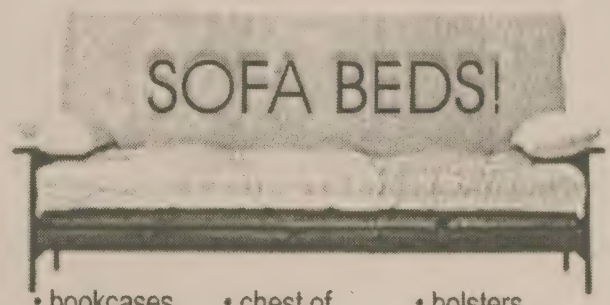

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Former *Martlet* editor is a 'Burt-stalker'

Burt Bacharach and Hal David: What the World Needs Now
Robin Platts
Collector's Guide Publishing

BY STEWART WOOD

[Shouted in the manner of William Shatner in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*]: Plaaaaaaaatts!!!

Robin Platts is clearly mad. He is bloody well teapot. Completely underpants-pulled-over-the-head, mate. The degree of detail in BBAHW:WTWNN suggests an obsession with the sensational shagalicious songwriting duo to a point of, well, worry.

For his emotional well-being–worry. For his sanity–worry.

And, above all, for his bar tab–worry.

Few will need all of the information crafted so meticulously in this book. It's an exhaustive, no-stone-left-unturned sort of book and written with such obvious love for the subjects that readers may feel a little uncomfortable at the smooch intensity oozing out of it. Consider it a handbook for Burt-stalkers.

Imagine Platts, a gleam in his eye, a four-in-the-morning tousle to his hair. He's slugging a swiftly-disappearing daiquiri in a down-at-heel, chrome-and-naugahyde cocktail lounge somewhere off the strip in Vegas. His velvet bow tie is loose, his frilled pink evening shirt open. A cigarette burns unattended in an overlarge ashtray fashioned in the psychedelic manner. He's sitting next to Burt on an expansive faux-leather lounger. Hal is off in the powder room. Ageing scenesters and white jet-trash litter the place. As Engelbert plays over the speakers, the barman, Scott, polishes glasses, bored. Maybe he's thinking of his own intimate encounters. I don't know. It's not relevant.

Burt is getting a bit wasted. Maybe it was that fourth Manhattan. Sensing his moment has come, Platts edges ever closer to Burt, a determined look in his bloodshot eye…

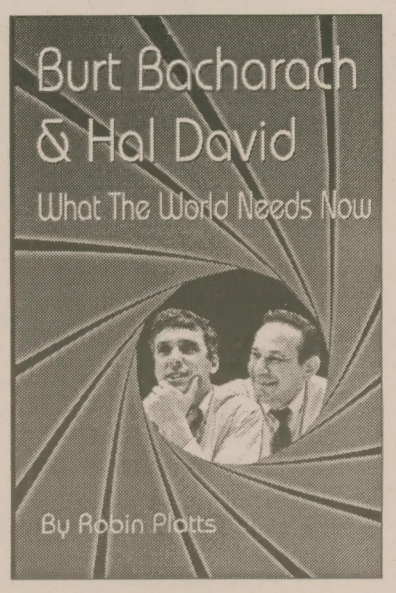
You get the picture.

Maybe they should get a room.

The story of Burt and Hal, as told by ex-Martleteer Platts, is pretty straightforward: nice Jewish boy is given piano lessons at eight, is precociously talented, is wonderful, blah blah blah. The story is predictable enough, foreshadowed by the success story that is, er, Burt and Hal. And, if you are thinking "Huh? Bacharach and David? I know not of these pop songsters of which you speak!", then either you have been terminally benighted for the past 30 years (a condition common to anyone that listens avidly to gangsta rap whilst driving their mom's Nissan) or, indeed, unborn for much of it.

Every one of you, dear Martlet readers–both of you–will be familiar with at least one of the songs written by the poptastic twosome. And I'm not going to list any of them here, so you'll have to look for them on Google. Think Julia Roberts. Think Austin Powers. Yeah, that Burt Bacharach. Platts really has done his homework. Every song is listed, including different versions recorded by everyone from Dionne Warwick to Mike Myers to Elvis Costello, including the duds. There are rather sweet-looking album cover graphics from God-knows-when, chronicling the disastrous fashions of the sixties and seventies. Actually, the '80s and the '90s too. Oh well. Let's call it a visual treat all round. It breaks up the text, which is always nice.

If there's a downside to Platts' style, it's that he tends to be almost too meticulous. It's easy to get bogged down in the less spectacular aspects of the superstar duo's story. But then I tend to get glassy-eyed when reading *People* unless there's a car chase by the third paragraph. Having said that, the book is bloody good reading for anyone interested in the career of Burt and Hal. And Robin,



for that matter.

Order a martini, loosen your tux, and read it.

Robin Platts was the Editor-in-Chief of the Martlet last year; Stewart Wood was the Production Co-ordinator. It was rumoured that Platts was the author of a couple of tomes on such noble musical acts as Genesis and the book reviewed here. He didn't want their existence to be known but the intrepid Wood found this rare treasure, his findings recorded here.

Author explores the 'hole' of P.G.

Virtual Clearcut: Or, The Way Things Are In My Hometown
Brian Fawcett
Thomas Allen Publishers

BY PATRICK WHITE

As any number of tree-planters and former residents scattered around UVic can tell you, Prince George is a hole. It's a hollowed-out skeleton of a city that has no good light to be seen in. God has decided that PeeGee is not worth wasting much time on and so has endowed the city with a pallid, flat, grey light that struggles to illuminate the city year-round.

Brian Fawcett has just written an entire book on the city called *Virtual Clearcut, Or the Way Things Are in My Hometown.* The book is based on his childhood growing up in PeeGee and a few expeditions he has taken to the city from 1990-2001.

After he left town, Fawcett became known for his involvement with the Black Mountain poetry movement of the 60s and 70s that gained more international attention for shit-disturbing than any real literary or artistic merit. With *Virtual Clearcut*, the shit-disturber has grown up.

Fawcett describes a city that "has lost the ability to do anything for itself." Where once dozens of independent mills dotted the shores of the Fraser, only six remain. Corporate giants such as Costco, Wal-mart, and Home Depot ring the city, ensnaring shoppers before they get close to the core.

As Fawcett revisits the city over the years, the big confident men who once seemed to control Prince George and look after its people appear increasingly fragile, both physically and authoritatively. By Fawcett's last visit in 2001, they are doddering old men without power, influence or capital.

Fawcett left the town when he was 22 and never returned to live there. He figured, like a lot of people who lay eyes on the city, that it was a horrible place with nothing to offer him. The friends he left behind are depicted as having an underlying feeling that they're "fucked" but will remain in Prince George regardless.

During every visit, Fawcett takes a trip 60 kilometres southeast of the city to the Bowron clearcut–a lifeless 53,000 hectare monstrosity visible from space. There he sees a barren expanse of land that was stripped of all economic, aesthetic, and ecological value in an unprecedented industrial orgy. Much of the $800 million worth of timber cut there went to the foreign-owned companies responsible. Those who worked on the ground brought home to their families the same amount as they always had. The loggers and small-time industrialists here are like the bulldozer operator in Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath.* He may be the one who's leveling the house of the family who can't pay the bills, but he's just doing it to feed his own family. You could shoot him between the eyes and roll the dozer off a cliff, but the New York-based banks will have another one sent to finish the job.

Fawcett sees this no longer through

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

the eyes of a shit-disturber, but as a pot-bellied man in his fifties, looking around him forlornly and wondering, "Where the hell did we go wrong?" Virtual Clearcut offers a glimpse into a sick one-industry town and offers its symptoms for a larger international diagnosis.

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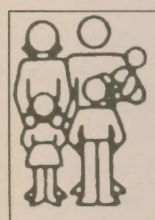
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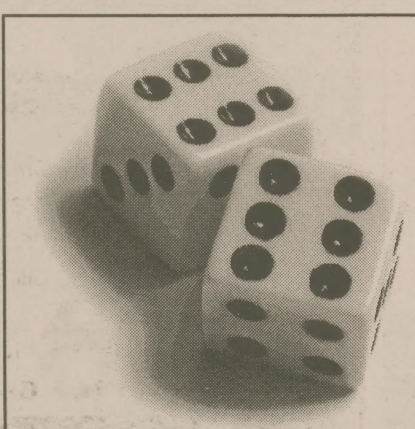
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Vikes down under at rugby World Cup

BY JENNY HICKS

The Vikes men's rugby team is missing three familiar faces this season. Mark Lawson, Ed Fairhurst, and Colin Yukes, all standouts from last year's Rounsefell Cup winning squad, are gone, training instead with the National team in preparation for the World Cup in Australia next month.

All three earned spots at the national level this year, an opportunity they deserve, says UVic rugby coach Doug Tate. Having coached all three, Tate knows each player on an individual level and explained what they bring to the game.

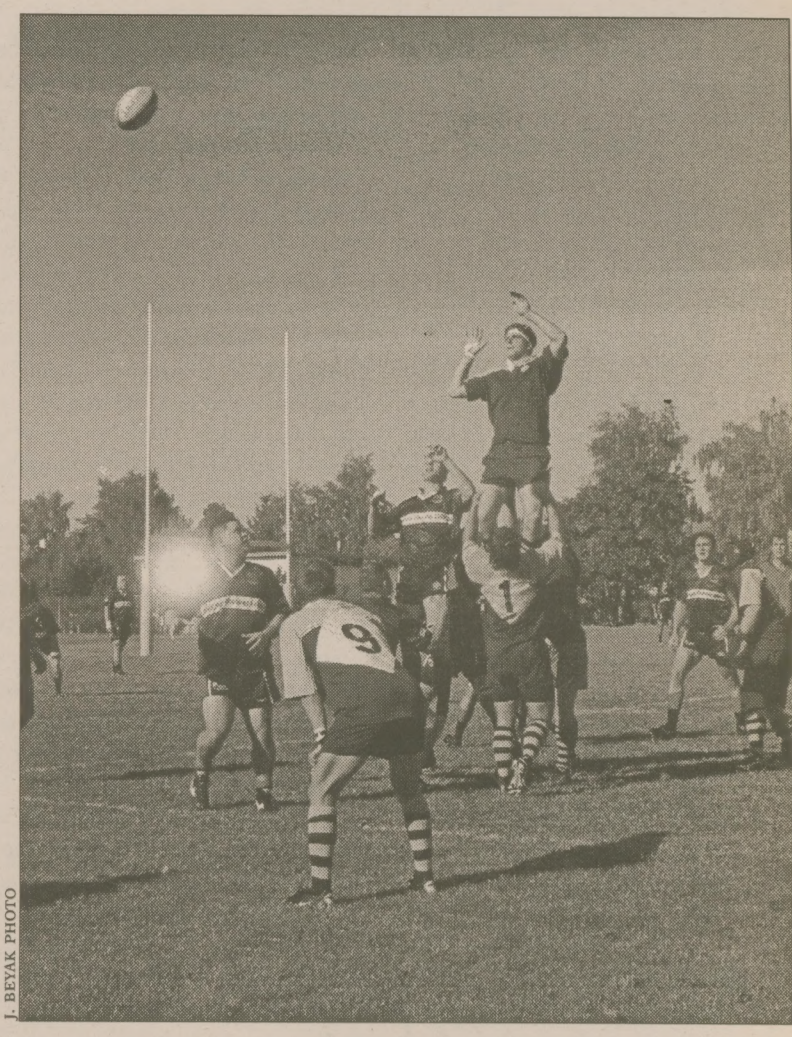
Hooker Mark Lawson, who captained the national U-19 team at age 17, is seen as a great leader. Lock/back row Colin Yukes is known as a very physical player who can play a number of positions, a valuable asset given the small 22-man game rosters allowed at the World Cup. And scrum half Ed Fairhurst has the great skill of being able to kick for goal.

The national senior men's 15's team, under the management of Don Whidden and Coach David Clark, are currently finishing up an intensive preparation camp at Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island. Lawson, Fairhurst, and Yukes practice with the 30-man squad twice a day, five days a week on Shawnigan's international sized pitch.

Entering their last week of training, the team has one final stop before leaving for Australia. They play a British Columbia Select XV on September 27 at UBC's Thunderbird Stadium before departing on September 29 for Australia, where they will begin another weeklong training camp in Wollongong, south of Sydney. The team plays its first World Cup game on October 12 in Melbourne, against Wales.

Lawson, Fairhurst, and Yukes have made a huge impact on the Vikes and their absence will be felt on the field this season. But at the same time it has been a positive experience according to Coach Tate. "Missing players is positive on both sides. It tests the development of the other players to see who can step up from a level below, and it's positive for these guys to be playing at a national level."

Both Fairhurst and Yukes will return to the Vikes next term but recent graduate Lawson will not be back. The Vikes Rugby team plays UBC in Vancouver on September 27, the same day the national team plays. Coach Tate says the team will meet with Lawson, Fairhurst, and Yukes to bid them farewell and wish them luck in Australia.



J. BEYAK PHOTO

UVic lost to the Ravens 42-17 Saturday at Wallace Field without World Cup members Mark Lawson, Ed Fairhurst, and Colin Yukes.

Keepin' the faith

Norman Ed Baskerville offers hope to the "Nuckel" hearted

BY NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE

Still scoffing obscenities at the mention of the Canucks blowing a three game series lead to the upstart Minnesota Wild last May?

Well Nuckleheads, don't concern yourself about last year's second round playoff loss. Vancouver's still a team stacked with enough talent that this might be the year they bring the elusive Stanley Cup to British Columbia.

So what if former Ducks superstar Paul Kariya signed with the Avalanche instead of with his hometown Canucks. And so what if Colorado also signed the Finnish Flash, Teemu Selanne? The Canucks still have two of the top five scoring forwards in the NHL: right winger Todd Bertuzzi and team captain Markus Naslund.

Expect Bertuzzi to better the 97 points he earned last year by charging the net like a steam train on skates. Bert finally shed the label of lazy player, and is now the standard by which all NHL power forwards are judged. Of course, much of Bert's success is due to his chemistry with fellow linemates Naslund and Brendan Morrison.

With a sixth sense for scoring highlight reel goals, Naslund is arguably the premier left wing in the game today. He racked up 48 goals and 56 assists during the 2002-2003 season, making him only the second player in Canuck history to surpass the 100 point plateau. Pavel Bure, the now sputtering Russian Rocket, holds the record with his 1992-1993 point total of 110.

Two more Swedes were also acquired over the summer: former Ottawa Senator Magnus Arvedson, a dependable, two-way forward, and Pittsburgh goalie Johan Hedberg. Along with Naslund, the freaky looking Sedin twins, skilled defenceman Mattis Ohlund, and gritty left winger Mats Lindgren, the Canuck's now have a grand total of seven Swedish-born players on the roster, possibly the most ever on one NHL team

For all you Don Cherry xenophobes, the majority of the Canuck players are still Canadian-born. And longtime Canuck fans will look forward to another season with Medicine Hat's gift to Vancouver, Trevor Linden.

The former Canuck captain proved again last year why he's one of the franchise's most popular players. At 33, Linden's numbers aren't what they used to be, but his leadership and responsible play still make him a valued asset.

At this year's training camp, the only player from the Manitoba Moose farm team threatening to crack the NHL line-up was Fedor Fedorov, the younger brother of the Detroit Red Wing's superstar Sergei Fedorov. Fedor, a fleet-footed winger, played only seven games with the Canucks last season, but after an impressive year with the Moose, don't be surprised if he tries to fit into his brother's NHL skates.

Despite some unearned criticism during last year's playoffs, Dan Cloutier will, in all likelihood, return as the Canucks' first-string goalie. Cloutier is coming off the only back-to-back 30-game wins in Vancouver's franchise history.

The only notable player departures were right winger Trent Klatt, who signed with Los Angeles, and centreman/right winger Trevor Letowski, who went to the Columbus Bluejackets.

Klatt, a seasoned puck-mucker, and often a linemate and mentor for the young Sedin twins, was a fan favourite during last year's playoff drive. Letowski was a speedster with some skill, but an inconsistent performer. Good riddance.

So where will the Canucks finish this season? There's no reason to believe that they won't be in the top four of the Western Conference. They have talent, grit, leadership, and good coaching. But will they win the sacred Cup?

With the player parity of today's NHL and all the variables that go into team success, I give the Canucks the same odds as any other team: a one in 30 chance.

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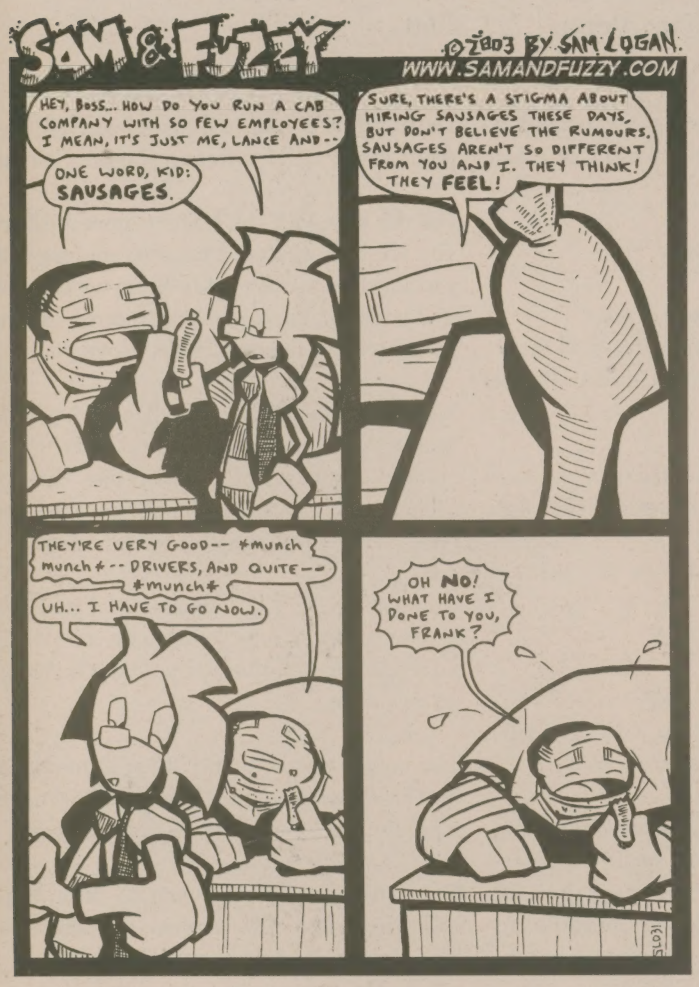
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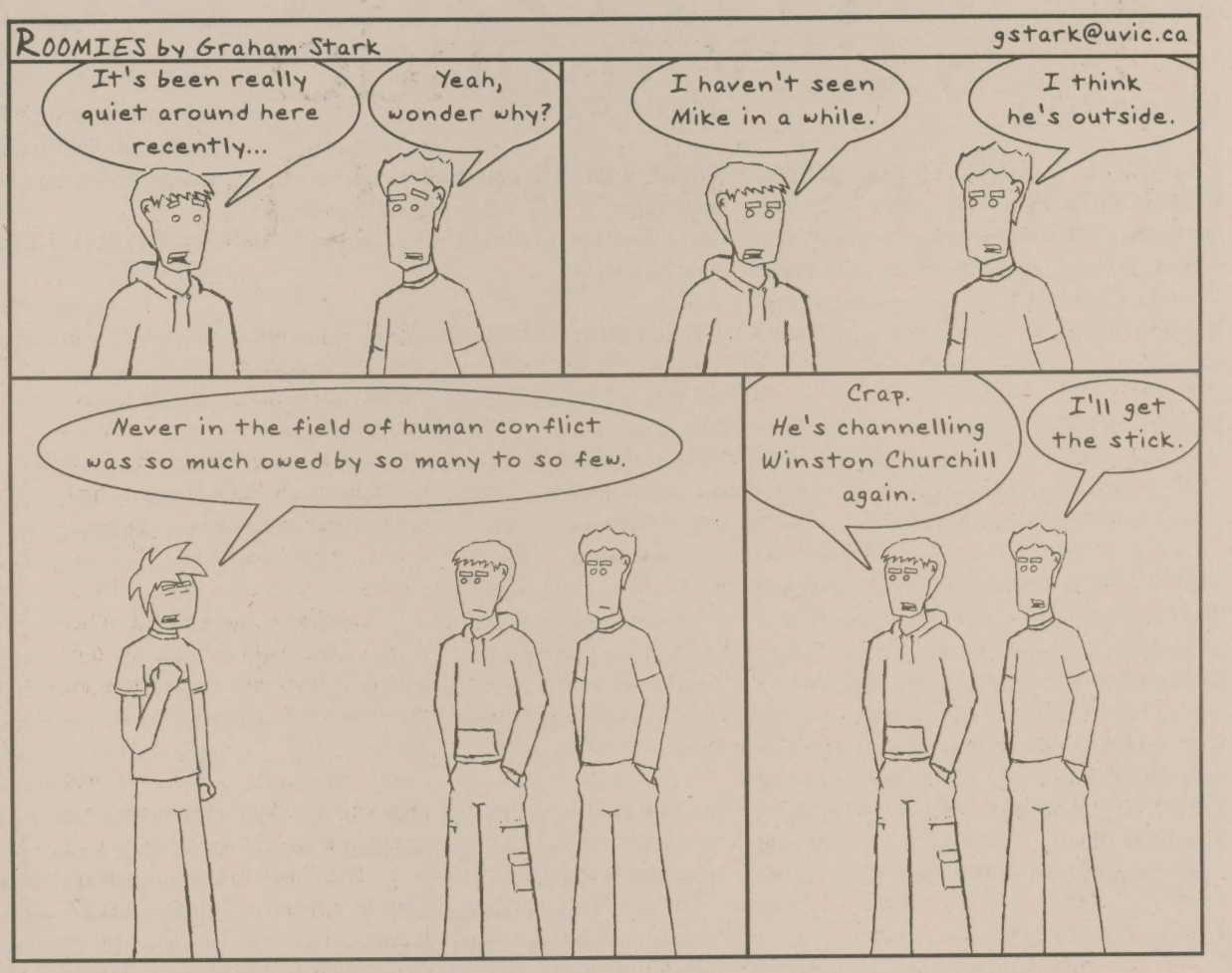
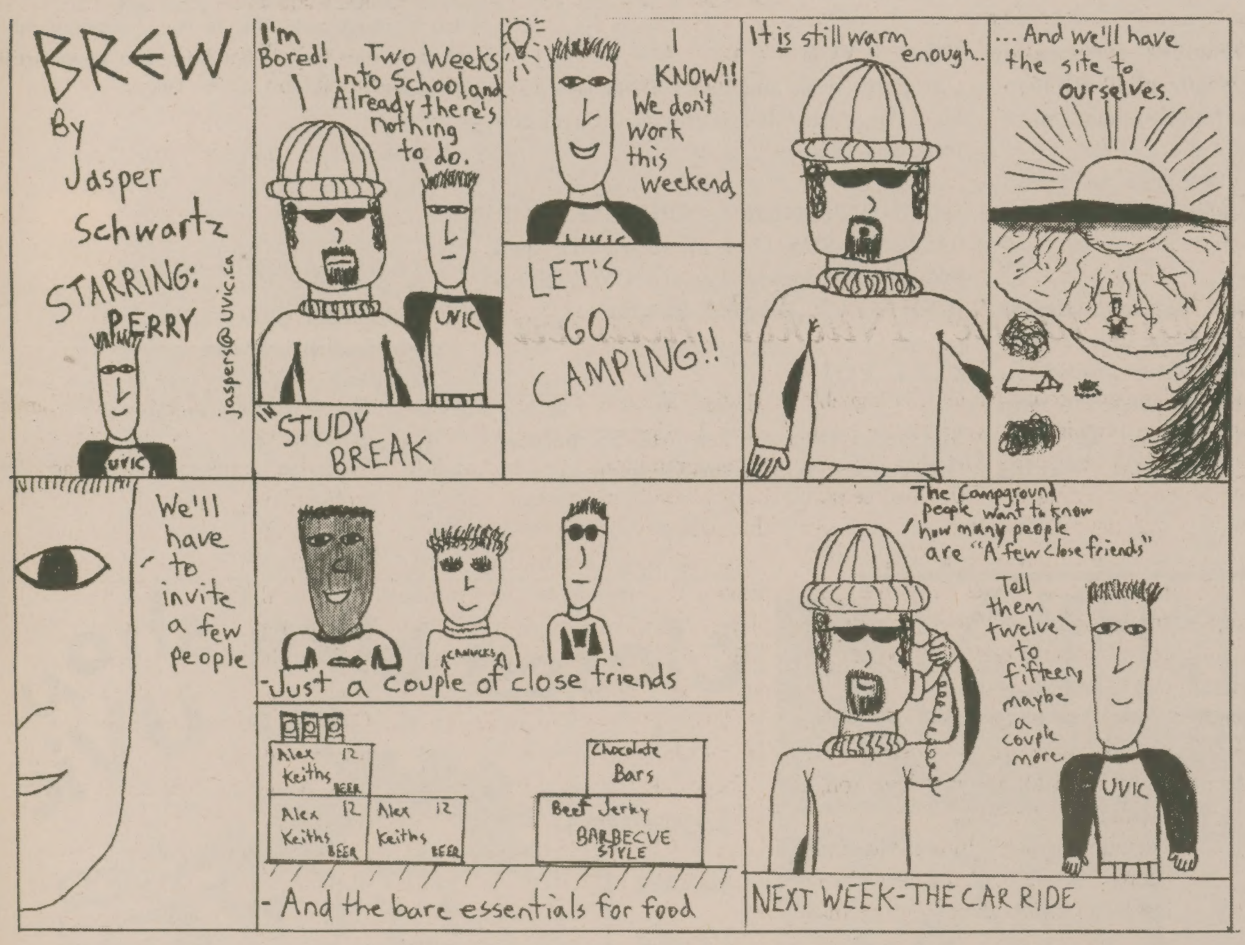
ONE WORD, KID: SAUSAGES.
SURE, THERE'S A STIGMA ABOUT HIRING SAUSAGES THESE DAYS, BUT DON'T BELIEVE THE RUMOURS. SAUSAGES AREN'T SO DIFFERENT FROM YOU AND I. THEY THINK! THEY FEEL!
THEY'RE VERY GOOD-- #munch munch#-- DRIVERS, AND QUITE-- #munch#
UH... I HAVE TO GO NOW.
OH NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU, FRANK?
CRUNCH


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
gstark@uvic.ca
It's been really quiet around here recently...
Yeah, wonder why?
I haven't seen Mike in a while.
I think he's outside.
Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.
Crap. He's channelling Winston Churchill again.
I'll get the stick.


BREW
By Jasper Schwartz
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I'm Bored! Two Weeks Into School and Already there's nothing to do.
I KNOW!! We don't work this weekend
LET'S GO CAMPING!!
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It is still warm enough..
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The Campground people want to know how many people are "A few close friends"
Tell them twelve to fifteen, maybe a couple more.
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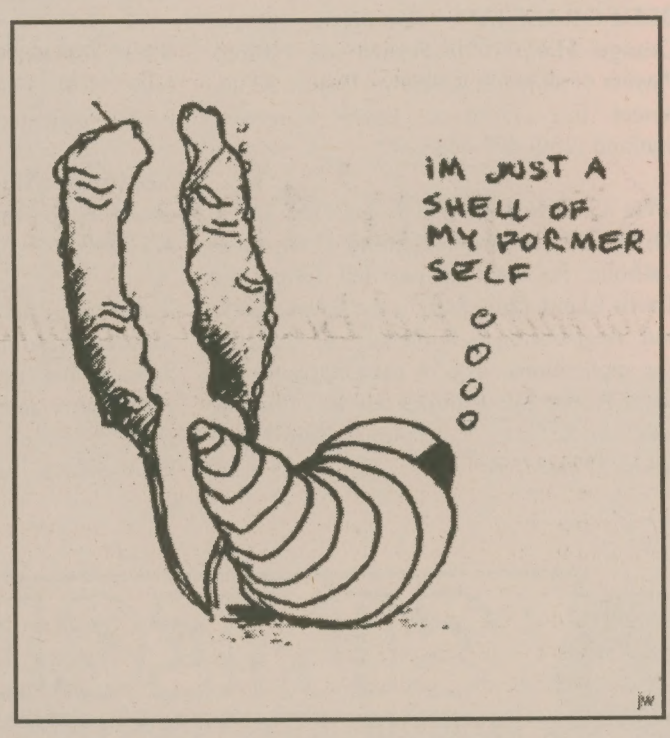
Beef Jerky BARBECVE STYLE
- And the bare essentials for food
NEXT WEEK-THE CAR RIDE



The Martlet has a Graphics Editor now!
So if you want to submit comics to our fine paper, drop them off in the appropriate box in SUB B011 or e-mail them to photo@martlet.ca
I am filling space, can you tell?

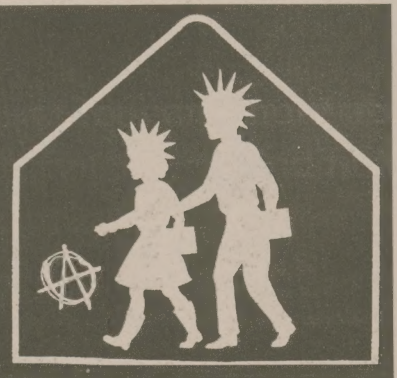
MARTLET.ca
The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

Annual General Meeting

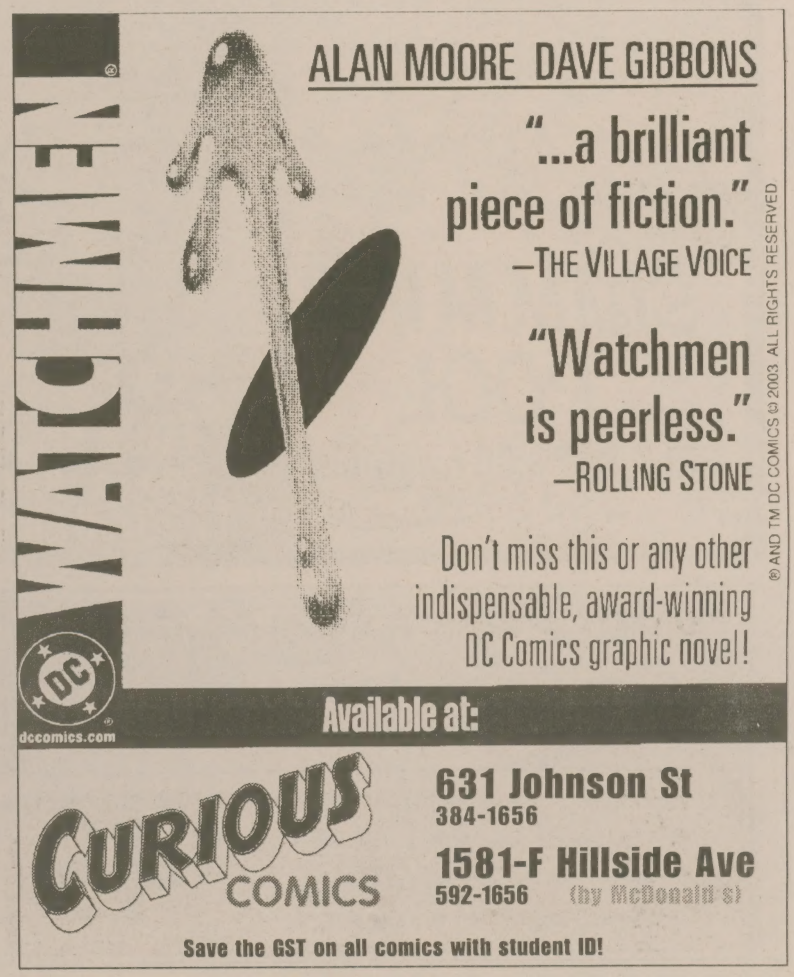
We're having our AGM on Friday, **October 3**, 2003 at **5 pm** in room **SUB 110a**.

If your name is in the staff box, be there!
(We'll even bribe you with tasty treats)

Utopia
564 Johnson Street
Market Square
383-5945



"Don't assume I share your prejudices"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ON CAMPUS

CATHOLIC STUDENTS REGIONAL CONFERENCE at UVic, Nov. 7-9. This conference will bring together Catholic university/college students from all across Western Canada. Check out details and registration forms at www.stas.uvic.ca/chap/catholic

Bicycle to UVic? Increase your confidence in traffic with our one day cycling skills course. Deposit refunded upon attendance. Info at http://web.uvic.ca/uvbikes

Victoria Hindu Temple presents **DIWALI 2003** A dazzling night of classical and contemporary Indian dance and song. Tickets $8 students, $10 adults & $6 children (12 and under). Farquar Auditorium University Centre October 11 @ 7pm. Tickets available from Island Video (475-1212), Usha Agarwal (384-1521), Sharada Prasad (472-3718), Gurudutt Jhagra (472-2512) and Arvind Sund for up island (1-888-855-3133).

OFF CAMPUS

BLUEGRASS JAM, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, 7:30pm. Players of all levels welcome. Players $2, listeners free. Contact: Larry Lawrence Statland (250) 472-6483.

UVic CATHOLIC STUNDENTS' FALL RETREAT September 26-28. Join other Catholic Students at our fall retreat on Thetis Island. Only $40 for the whole weekend. Registration is limited to 42 students. For applications, drop by the Chaplain's offcie at Room 142, Campus Services Building (next to Bookstore) or phone Kate Fagan Taylor (721-8339).

HELP WANTED

GREEN PARTY now hiring door-to-door canvassers. If you are articulate, intelligent and politically motivated, please apply. Call 382-8378.

TEACH ENGLISH Overseas: Jobs $$ Guaranteed – Great Pay. TESOL Certified in 5 days in-class (Oct.22-26), online or by correspondence. **FREE** Information Seminar, Mondays (except holidays) @ 7pm Bedford Regency 1140 Government St. FREE Infopack: 1-888-270-2941 or global-tesol.com

Western Canada Wilderness Committee is seeking environementally aware, out-going people to join our canvass team. FT/PT. Students encouraged to apply. 388-9292 – Emily

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Need help writing papers? For an experienced editor and professional writer call 472-3357.

If you enjoy nature and have an interest in working with children, Swan Lake Nature Santuary has the ideal volunteer position for you. Nature interpreters are needed to assist with school programs, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting September 23rd. Training is provided. Interested? Call Joan aat 479-0211 or email jcowley@swanlake.bc.ca

ACCOMODATIONS

Gorge Waterway Apts.
Newly renovated bachelor suites – all inclusive. Now accepting applications. Phone 388-5461.

James Bay – Large 2 Bedroom, 9th Floor apartment to share, hardwood floor, balcony, Internet, etc. $480 + 1/2 Utilities. Male roomate preffered. Phone 477-7817

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHINESE WING CHUN KUNG FU Tuesday & Thursday 7-8pm. Call Ray 383-0408. Visit www.springtimesong.com.

DO YOU CYBER? Documentary filmmaker looking for people who spend considerable time in adult chat rooms or sex sites. All conversations confidential, no obligation to participate. Melanie soapbox_productions@yahoo.ca 604-738-3872

FOR SALE
Computer desk and chair. Desk is snazzy black, large-ish. Chair is gray. $60, buyer collects. 384-1966.

reCONDITIONED BICYCLES FOR SALE, $50-$175. Or learn to fix your own bike in our on going class at reCYCLISTAS BIKE CO-OP, 418-8867, 25 Crease.

HEY YOU!

You better take one last look SS, because you're never going to see me again.

Dave, if that's your real name, you left your pants in my father's station wagon. Call me.

For the boy with the haircut named Albert: you are so gorgeous! I want to snuggle with you for days, weeks, years. Soon we can frolic, hands joined as we skip merrily around your precious Space Needle. I love you!

Mosses are the work of the devil. They have nothing on lichens. Mosses are always full of creepy transluscent worm-like things. Lichens, on the other hand, are nice and happy and full of fun. Down with moss!

Che cazzo fai, pigro bastardo! Lascia mi perche sono troppo triste con te. Voglio morte senza te. Auitarmi perfavore ho bisogno di amore.

The cow jumps over the moon at midnight. You know what to do! Do not try to contact me here, I will be at the rendezvous point.

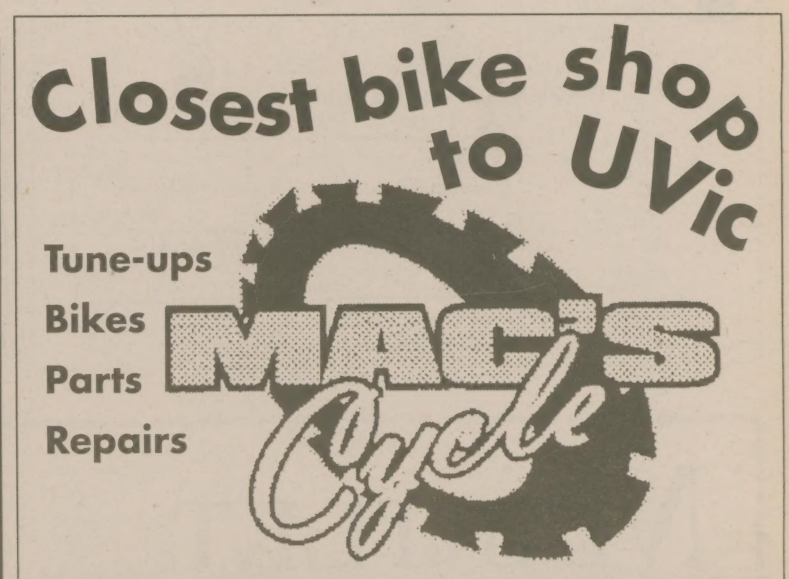
DH. I'm sorry, I didn't want to do it, but I had no choice. My parents threatened to kick me out. Forgive me!

Le fromage est dans la rue. Pourquoi est-il là ? Je sais pas. Peut-être que tu pourrais m'aider.

Don't forget to smile :-)

BILLBOARD RATES:

Students and Clubs - $2/issue
Non-Students - $2/line
Businesses - $5.50/line first 3
+ $2/extra line
hey you! - free



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